Subject: POSCO

I

1. On January 31st, 2011 I had announced that final forest clearance for the POSCO project in Orissa would be given after the receipt of certain categorical assurances from the state government. This is at Annexure-I.

2. On April 13th, 2011 the state government communicated these assurances to MoE&F. On April 14th, 2011 because of two supposed Palli Sabha Resolutions I received from the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti, I referred the matter back to the state government. This is at Annexure-II.

3. On April 29th, 2011, the state government responded to my letter of April 14th, 2011. This latest reply is at Annexure-III.

II

4. The Government of Orissa in its latest reply dated April 29th 2011 has stated the following:

   i. The two Palli Sabha Resolutions—of Dhinkia dated February 21st, 2011 and of Gobindpur dated Feb.23rd, 2011—are not valid documents in terms of mandatory provisions of law under the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964 and Forest Rights Act, 2006. Such resolutions can neither be relied on nor be acted upon.

   ii. Out of a total of 3445 voters of Dhinkia, only 69 persons have allegedly signed the so-called Palli Sabha Resolution of Feb.21st, 2011, and of 1907 voters of Gobindpur, only 64 persons have allegedly signed the Palli Sabha Resolution of Feb.23rd,2011. This clearly shows that the “resolutions” are invalid.

   iii. The two “resolutions” purported to have been passed by the Palli Sabha are not available in the book (recorded by the gram panchayat secretary and signed by the sarpanch) and are therefore fake ones.

   iv. Stringent action for violation of provisions of Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964 will be taken against Shri Sisir Mohapatra, Sarpanch Dhinkia who has over-stepped the jurisdiction vested in him and mis-utilised his official position to serve the interest of POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samitee (PPSS) of which he is the Secretary.
5. I have gone through various provisions of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, Forest Rights Act, 2006 and Forest Rights Rules, 2007. The main issue here is whether the two supposed Palli Sabha Resolutions that I received from the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti, and that were sent on April 14th to the Orissa government for disposal according to law, are legally valid documents or not.

6. According to Rule 4(2) of the Forest Rights Rules, 2007, the quorum of the Gram Sabha1 meeting shall not be less than two thirds of all members of such Gram Sabha. As per the report of the Orissa government (see ii. in Para 4 above) the number of members was far less than the prescribed quorum.

7. Further, according to Rule 3(1) of the Forest Rights Rules, 2007, the Gram Sabhas should be convened by the Gram Panchayat, where as in this case these seem to have been convened by the Sarpanch without the authority of the Gram Panchayat. Rule 20(a) of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Rules 1968 has also authorised only the Gram Panchayat to convene the palli sabha.

8. Lastly, as per the requirements of Rule 26 of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Rules, the proceedings of the palli sabha should be recorded in a book specially maintained for this purpose. In the instant case, as per the report of the District Collector, the resolutions under question are not available in that book.

9. For these reasons, and based on the information provided by the state government, I have no option but to come to the conclusion that there has been no legally valid resolution of the Gram Sabha claiming recognition of forest rights as required under section 6(1) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

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1 Which for Orissa means palli sabha
IV

10. I now have three options available to me.
   
   - Seek further legal opinion on what the state government has stated.
   - Institute an independent inquiry into the claims and counter-claims being made by the state government and the PPSS.
   - Repose trust in what the state government has so categorically asserted.

11. I have already examined the legal issues in section III, and therefore there is nothing to be gained by seeking further legal opinion. Similarly the facts of the case, in particular the lack of signatures of two-thirds of the village adult population on the resolution passed by the Sarpanch, are too obvious to require any further enquiry or verification.

12. I have therefore decided to follow the third route because the primary responsibility for implementing the Forest Rights Act, 2006 is that of the state government through the institutions of the Gram Sabha, SDO, and the District Collector. I must respect the reports from the SDO and the Collector. Their views and also of the state government must prevail unless there is overwhelming and clinching evidence to the contrary. Therefore I hold that there has been no valid claim for recognition of forest rights in Dhinkia and Gobindpur as required under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

13. Faith and trust in what the state government says is an essential pillar of cooperative federalism which is why I rejected the second option. Beyond a point, the bona fides of a democratically elected state government cannot always be questioned by the Centre.

14. I am conscious of the fact that the MOU between the state government and POSCO expired last year and has yet to be renewed. This MOU had provisions for the export of iron ore which made me deeply uncomfortable with this project. I would expect that the revised MOU between the state and POSCO would be negotiated in such a manner that exports of raw material are completely avoided. In addition, the appeal of the state government against the decision of the Orissa High Court striking down the allocation of the Khandadhar iron ore mines to POSCO is still pending in the Supreme Court. I could well have waited for the MOU to be renewed and for a final decision of the Supreme Court. But that would have smacked of filibustering. I would now hope that the new MOU would be negotiated by the state government in such a way that exports of iron ore are completely avoided.

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2 This notwithstanding the fact that the state government has been actively canvassing for the project in question.
15. *Therefore, in view of the state government’s latest communication of April 29th, 2011, final approval is accorded to the state government for diversion of 1253 hectares of forest land in favour of POSCO.* This approval would, however, be subject to the condition that, in addition to the conditions already imposed on compensatory afforestation, payment of NPV etc, POSCO would also bear the cost of regeneration of an equivalent amount of open, degraded forest land in a district to be determined and indicated by the state government.

16. *I also expect that the state government would immediately pursue action, under the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, against the Sarpanch, Dhinkia for what it has categorically said are “fraudulent” acts.* If no action is taken forthwith, I believe that the state government’s arguments will be called into serious question.

V

17. I want to address the question of whether my decision will weaken the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. To these critics I would answer that it was at my personal insistence that in August 2009, the Ministry of Environment and Forests made adherence to the Forest Rights Act, 2006 an essential pre-requisite for allowing diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. I was under no obligation or pressure to do so except my own commitment to FRA, 2006. The implementation of both the FRA, 2006 and the August 2009 guideline is a learning and an evolving process since we are still in largely uncharted territory. The Ministry of Environment and Forests will continue to upgrade and improve the process to ensure compliance with the law in letter and in spirit.

18. The environment and forest clearance process for the POSCO project has generated huge interest both in India and abroad. As I had pointed out in my decision of January 31st, 2011, the POSCO project itself has considerable economic, technological and strategic significance for both the state and the country. At the same time, laws on the environment and forests must be implemented seriously. *In this case, the 60 conditions imposed as part of my decision of January 31st, 2011 provide a package of measures to ensure that the project will not be detrimental from an ecological and local livelihoods point of view. I would expect both the state and POSCO to be extra-sensitive on this score.*
19. This has not been an easy decision to take and it will, I know, be both welcomed and criticised. That is perhaps inevitable given the complex nature of the issues involved. But what I want to be clearly appreciated is that all along I have tried to uphold the principle of due process. *I believe as Minister my responsibility is not just to do the right thing, but do the thing right.*

Jairam Ramesh
MOS(I/C)E&F
2nd May, 2011

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3 Just as I am releasing this decision, PPSS has sent me another representation which, in the interests of full transparency, is at Annexure IV.
ANNEXURE-I

• MOS(I/C) E&F order of January 31st, 2011
POSCO:
Final Order and Other Relevant Documents
31st January 2011

I. Final Order of MoS (I/C) E&F

II. Copy of Environmental Clearance for Steel-cum-Captive Power Plant

III. Copy of Environmental Clearance for Captive Minor Port

IV. Copy of Communications from Orissa State Government on FRA, 2006 in POSCO Project area
I. FINAL ORDER OF MOS (I/C) E&F
ANNEXURE-I

• MOS(I/C) E&F order of January 31st, 2011
Subject: POSCO

I. Background

1. The Government of Orissa and Pohang Steel Company (POSCO) signed a MoU on June 22, 2005 for setting up an integrated steel plant with the total capacity of 12 million tonnes per annum (with 4 million tonnes in the first phase) at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district. The integrated steel plant includes a captive power plant and a captive minor port. The entire project complex requires about 1621 hectares of land of which about 1253 hectares is forest land.

2. The application for environmental clearance for the captive minor port was received in the MoE&F on September 14th, 2006. The environmental clearance was granted by the MoE&F on May 15th, 2007.

3. The application for environmental clearance for the captive power-cum-steel plant was received in the MoE&F on April 27th, 2007. The environmental clearance for the captive power-cum-steel plant was granted by the MoE&F on July 19th, 2007.

4. On June 26th, 2007, Government of Orissa sought approval from the MoE&F for diversion of about 1253 hectares of forest land. On September 28th, 2008, Stage-I clearance for diversion of forest land was granted by the MoE&F. Final clearance for diversion of forest land was granted by the MoE&F on December 29th, 2009.

5. On January 8th, 2010, MoE&F clarified to the Government of Orissa that the final approval of diversion of forest land in favour of POSCO is conditional on the settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 also known as Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

6. On March 16th, 2010, the Forest and Environment Department of Government of Orissa wrote to the MoE&F conveying that there are no tribal people or traditional forest dwellers residing in the forest area being acquired by POSCO.

8. On April 13th, 2010 the MoE&F and Ministry of Tribal Affairs jointly constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena and Dr. Devendra Pandey to study the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, particularly from the point of view of sustainable forest management. On August 4th, 2010 a report was received in the MoE&F submitted by a sub-committee of this joint committee which said that there was non-compliance of the required processes under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

9. On August 5th, 2010, MoE&F based on sub-committee’s report asked the Government of Orissa to stop transferring forest land till all the processes under the FRA 2006 had been satisfactorily completed.

10. Meanwhile, on July 25th, 2010 a four-member committee had been constituted by the MoE&F based on a recommendation made by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) to examine all issues relating to diversion of forest land for the POSCO project. This was done considering the substantial amount of forest land being diverted and in view of the representations that the FAC had received.

11. The report of the four-member Committee was submitted on October 18th, 2010. The Committee was not unanimous in its recommendations, with one member submitting one set of findings and recommendations and three others taking a different view both in terms of findings and recommendations.

12. The reports of this four-member committee were considered by three statutory bodies of the MoE&F—(i) the Forest Advisory Committee (for diversion of forest land); (ii) the Expert Appraisal Committee for Industry (for the captive power-cum-steel plant); and (iii) the Expert Appraisal Committee for Infrastructure (for the captive minor port).
13. I have (i) carefully considered the recommendations of these three committees; (ii) carefully considered the representation made by the state government to the FAC; and (iii) had detailed discussions with the state government, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and various other stakeholders. The following are my decisions.

II. Environmental Clearance for Steel-cum-Captive Power Plant

14. Environmental clearance for the steel-cum-captive power plant is being accorded with 28 additional conditions over and above that stipulated in the original environmental clearance of July 19th, 2007. Of these the most significant are the following:

- The National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued by the MoE&F on November 16th, 2009 will be followed.

- Sustainability study of water requirement (for the ultimate steel production capacity of 12 million tonnes per year) will be carried out by an institute of repute. Should there be a shortfall of water at the Jobra Barrage for irrigation purposes, the company will voluntarily sacrifice water intake for facilitating irrigation.

- The total green area within the plant will be 25% of its area as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

- Risk and disaster management plans due to plant operation and natural hazards such as floods, cyclones and earthquakes along with mitigation measures shall be prepared and submitted to the MoE&F.

- In addition to fulfilling the R&R obligations mandated by the state government’s package and while also implementing CSR-related programmes in the construction phase, 2% of net annual profit should be devoted to corporate social responsibility in the region where the project is located.

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1 This is in keeping with the “Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility for Central Public Sector Enterprises” brought out by the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India, March 2010.
III. Environmental Clearance for Captive Minor Port

15. Over the last few weeks, the MoE&F has received the results of the shoreline study being carried out in different states by the Institute of Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai. This study is based on satellite imagery for 1972, 1990, 2000 and 2010. *The study for Orissa and more particularly for that 3.48 km stretch of the Orissa coast from Gopalpur to Paradip where POSCO’s captive port is proposed reveals the following:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Erosion Characteristics</th>
<th>Distance (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High erosion(^2)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium erosion</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low erosion</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable coast</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low accretion</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium accretion</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High accretion</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3480</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. In view of this finding and also keeping in mind concerns raised on impacts on the marine environment raised by many civil society groups, *the environmental clearance for the captive minor port is being accorded with 32 additional conditions over and above*

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\(^2\) High Erosion means that the shoreline is moving towards the landward side by more than 5 metres/year; medium erosion movement is between 2 and 5 metres per year and low erosion movement is between 0.5 and 2 metres per year. Accretion is when the shoreline is moving towards the seaward side. Erosion is the issue.
stipulated in the original environmental clearance of May 15th, 2007. The most significant of these are:

- No construction shall be undertaken in the “high erosion” zone identified by the Institute of Ocean Management.
- Shoreline protection measures to counter erosion on the northern side of north breakwater shall be undertaken.
- The shoreline shall be protected to ensure that no further erosion occurs on the northern side of the Northern Breakwater up to Paradip port.
- A MOU shall be signed between NIO and POSCO which will include works relating to monitoring of the shoreline, sand bypass system, beach nourishment and any other activity that has an impact along the coast/coastal waters. The Institute for Ocean Management will monitor the progress periodically on behalf of the MoE&F.
- POSCO shall ensure that no industrial activity shall be carried out within CRZ area other than those permissible under the Notification.
- POSCO shall submit detailed Marine Environment Conservation Plan (including mangrove regeneration and conservation of turtles and horse shoe crabs). The implementation of conservation plan should start before commencing of construction of port.
- The location and size of the fishing jetty intended to compensate the loss of fishing activity arising out of development of the port at JMC shall be carried by POSCO in consultation with the local people to their satisfaction and requirement. Separate clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 for the proposed fishing jetty shall be obtained.
- POSCO shall make a detailed assessment of the impacts on fishing communities and resultant economic losses covered in R&R package – along with requirement of fishing jetty and identified beneficiaries, location identified for the jetty (and alternative options considered).
IV. Forest Clearance for Project Complex

17. In a communication to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India dated August 24th, 2010, the SC&ST Development Department of the Government of Orissa stated that:

"There are no tribals in occupation nor residing within the POSCO project area and no traditional forest dwellers are also there in occupation more than 75 years".

In this communication the state government has also stated that some claims submitted by the POSCO Prathirodha Sangram Samiti on June 1st, 2010 were, upon enquiry, found to be forged.

18. A communication from the Forest and Environment Department of the Government of Orissa to the MoE&F dated October 21st, 2010 stated that:

"...no claims were received from any of the villages (Dhinkia, Gobindpur, Nuagaon, Polanga, Nolia Sahi and Bhuyanpol)...nor has a single person claimed redressal under the definition of “other traditional forest dwellers”.

19. It is clear that the POSCO project site is not a part of a Fifth Schedule Area and is, in fact, far away from the nearest Fifth Schedule Area. However, according to the Forest Rights Act, 2006 non-tribals have to fulfill three conditions before their claims as other traditional forest dwellers (OTFDs) for rights under FRA, 2006 can be recognized. These are:

- They should have primarily resided in the forest for 75 years prior to the 13th day of December, 2005. (Section 2(o))
- They should be, at present, dependent on the forest or forest land for bona fide livelihood needs. (Section 2(o))
- They should have been in occupation of the forest land before the 13th day of December, 2005. (Section 4(3))
20. Non-tribals who meet the above three conditions constitute OTFDs regardless of whether they file any individual claim for land or not. All these three conditions have to be fulfilled for the recognition and vesting of forest rights for the OTFDs. Even if one of them is not fulfilled, then the applicants will not be eligible as OTFDs (individually or as a community) for the recognition and vesting of forest rights under the FRA, 2006.

21. Furthermore, regarding what constitutes “primarily residing in”, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its circular of June 9th, 2008 has clarified that the interpretation of the phrase “primarily resided in and who depend on” includes persons “who are not necessarily residing in the forest but are depending on the forest for their bona fide livelihood needs” or “who are working on such patches of land in such areas irrespective of whether their dwelling houses are outside the forest or forest land”.

22. As regards the phrase “bona fide livelihood needs”, Rule 2(b) of the Rules made under FRA, 2006 implies that a person either living in or cultivating a parcel of forest land or a person collecting firewood, fodder, non-timber forest produce, fish, etc from forest lands qualifies as a bona fide user.

23. Against this background and in view of the observations of the FAC and of the four-member committee (paras 11 and 12), before a final decision can be taken on diversion of forest land, since the state government has the primary responsibility for ensuring and guaranteeing compliance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006, I would like the Orissa government to

- give a categorical assurance to the MoE&F that at least one of the above three conditions is not fulfilled in the case of those claiming to be dependent on or cultivating land in the POSCO project area.³

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³ This would make it clear that there are no legally-tenable claims of non-tribals wanting recognition as OTFDs under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
Final approval for diversion of 1253 hectares of forest land for the POSCO project would be granted as soon as this assurance of the state government is received by the MoE&F.

V. A Final Word

24. Undoubtedly, projects such as that of POSCO have considerable economic, technological and strategic significance for the country. At the same time, laws on environment and forests must be implemented seriously. Every such case presents its own unique set of circumstances and requires a distinctive solution. *In this case*,

(i) the 28 additional conditions imposed as part of the environmental clearance for the steel-cum-captive power plant;

(ii) the 32 additional conditions imposed as a part of the environmental clearance for the captive minor port; and

(iii) the pointed assurance sought from the state government in keeping with its obligations under the Forest Rights Act, 2006

do provide a comprehensive package of measures to ensure that this project will not be detrimental from an ecological and local livelihood perspective. In any case, the conditions imposed are going to be closely monitored.

25. Projects like POSCO also raise broader issues of our capacity to conduct comprehensive, coordinated and combined environmental and forestry-related impact assessments and appraisals for mega projects and for projects that cut across a number of sectors, traditionally defined. The MoE&F has taken up this issue for review and improvement.
26. Finally, in keeping with the MoE&F's steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability, all documents referred to in this note and not already in the public domain are being made available on www.moef.nic.in.

Jairam Ramesh
MOS (I/C), E&F
31/1/11
II. COPY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR STEEL-CUM-CAPTIVE POWER PLANT
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(I.A. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110 003
E-mail: plahuja raj@yahoo.com
Tele/fax: 011- 2436 3973
Dated: 31st January, 2011

To,
M/s POSCO – India Pvt. Ltd
Room No. 445, Ashok Hotel
50 B, Chankayapuri
New Delhi – 110 034

E-mail: vikash.sharan@gmail.com

Subject: Integrated Iron & Steel Plant (4.0 MTPA) with Captive Power Plant (4x100 MW) at Kujang, Near Paradip, Jagatsinghpur in Orissa by M/s POSCO - India Pvt. Ltd. – Environmental clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to this Ministry’s letter of even no. dated 19.07.2007 according environmental clearance to the above project under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006.

2. As you are aware that the Ministry of Environment and Forests, vide its Order dated 28.07.2010 constituted a four member Committee to investigate into the proposal of POSCO-India Private Limited for establishment of an Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port. The Committee submitted its two reports on 18th October, 2010, one by Ms Meena Gupta and another by Dr. Urmila Pingle, Dr. Devendra Pandey & Dr. V. Suresh on 18th October, 2010. The above reports were posted on the Ministry’s website (www.envfor.nic.in).

3. The reports of the Committee were placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) in its 15th Meeting held on 27th October, 2010 to discuss the issues regarding the integrated steel plant and captive power plant. The Committee decided that the matter would be further examined in the next meeting and the State Environment Secretary, Govt. of Orissa, Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board and Senior Scientist of the Regional Office of the Ministry should also be invited to the meeting. The proposal was considered by the Committee in its meeting held on 23rd November, 2010 and a presentation was made by M/s POSCO-India Limited and their consultant. The Committee in its meeting held on 14th December, 2010 after consideration of the proposal decided to prescribe additional environmental safeguards for compliance by the project proponent.

4. The Ministry of Environment and Forests accepts the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry). Following additional conditions are stipulated for compliance by M/s POSCO - India Pvt. Limited.
i. On-line ambient air quality monitoring and continuous stack monitoring for all the stacks shall be done. Requisite air pollution control devices - Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP), Gas Cleaning Plant, Bag Filters - shall be provided to contain emission below 50 mg/Nm$^3$.

ii. National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued by the Ministry in G.S.R. No. 826(E) of 16th November, 2009 shall be followed.

iii. Vehicular pollution due to transportation of raw material and finished products shall be controlled as well as dust emission during loading and unloading. Raw material shall be stacked at earmarked sites in sheds/stockyards with wind breakers/shields and secure of fire hazard.

iv. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions and results of monitored data on their website and update these periodically. Information shall be simultaneously sent to the Regional Office of MOEF, concerned Zonal Office of CPCB and SPCB. The criteria pollutant levels, that is, of RSPM, SO$_2$, NOx (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) and of critical sectoral parameters of the plant shall be monitored and displayed at a prominent location near the main gate of the company in public domain.

v. Rain water shall be harvested and used and the capacity of the reservoir enhanced to minimum two months requirement if need be for the purpose.

vi. The proponent shall consider installing a desalination plant to cater drinking water to the neighbourhood.

vii. Source sustainability study of water requirement shall be carried out by an institute of repute. The study shall also specify the source of water for meeting the requirement during lean season. The report shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry within six months. No ground water shall be extracted for operating the plant. Hydro geological study of the area shall be reviewed annually and a report submitted to the Ministry.

viii. No water bodies or natural drains in the area shall be disturbed.

ix. COC of 5.0 shall be adopted in the Captive Power Plant. The treated effluent conforming to the prescribed standards only shall be re-circulated and reused within the plant.

x. The proponent shall implement energy efficient technologies / equipment to save the energy. For utilities, use of solar energy shall be explored.

xi. Action plan for solid waste management, its conveyance outside the plant so as to ensure unfettered development of greenery within and disposal of the waste shall be submitted before completion of construction of the plant and commencement of production.
xii. There shall be a green belt around the plant of minimum 15-20 metres width and the total green area within the plant shall be 25% of its area as per the CPCB guidelines. The greenery will be raised in consultation with the DFO. Action on this behalf will commence simultaneously with construction of the plant.

xiii. Noise level in the work zone shall be limited to 75 dB. For personnel working in the high noise area, requisite protective equipment like earplugs/ear muffs etc. shall be provided. Personnel so deployed shall be periodically examined and audiometric records maintained.

xiv. The proponent shall prepare detailed Occupational Health Surveillance Programme for implementation from start of the construction and operation of the plant for workers health and safety.

xv. Risk and Disaster Management Plans due to plant operation and natural hazards such as flood, cyclone and earthquake along with mitigation measures shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry’s Regional Office at Bhubaneswar, SPCB and CPCB. Storage facilities for auxiliary liquid fuel such as LDO and HFO/LSHS shall be made in the plant area in consultation with Department of Explosives, Nagpur. Disaster Management Plan shall be prepared to meet any eventuality arising from storage/leakage of oil and gas.

xvi. While also implementing CSR-related programmes during the construction phase, the company shall earmarked 2% of the net profit as CSR budget towards corporate social responsibilities. Item-wise details of expenditure proposed on specific need based programmes identified towards this end with time bound execution schedules shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry’s Regional Office at Bhubaneswar.

xvii. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the MOEF by e-mail.

xviii. Provision shall be made for housing for construction labour (as applicable) within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, creche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.

5. M/s POSCO - India Pvt. Limited shall comply with all the conditions stipulated vide Ministry’s letter of even no. dated 19.07.2007. This letter should be read in tandem and kept attached with the letter dated 19.07.2007.
6. In case of change in the scope of the project the company shall apply for fresh environmental clearance as per the procedure laid in the EIA Notification, 2006

7. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Dr. P. L. Acharya)
Director

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary, State Department of Environment, Govt. of Orissa, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
2. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi – 110 032.
3. The Chairman, Orissa Bengal Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, A/118, Neelkanthhanagar, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar - 751 012, Orissa.
4. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Eastern), Regional Office (EZ), A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751 023, Orissa.
5. The Joint Secretary (CCI-I), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
7. Guard File / Record File.
8. Website, MoEF.

(Dr. P. L. Acharya)
Director
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(I.A. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110 003
E-mail: pb.rastogi@nic.in
Telefax: 011: 2436 7668

Dated 19th July, 2007

To,
Joon Hoe Kim
General Manager
M/s POSCO – India
Room No. 445, Ashok Hotel
50 B, Chankayapuri
New Delhi – 110 034

E-mail: sumittsingh@gmail.com / vikashsharan@gmail.com
Fax No.: 0674-2303690/91/92 / 011-24673688, 011-24673688

Subject: Integrated Iron & Steel Plant (4.0 MTPA) with Captive Power Plant
(4x100 MW) at Kujang, Near Paradip, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa by M/s
POSCO India – Orissa Pvt. Ltd. – Environmental clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter no. PI/CON/0803/07 dated 27th April, 2007
along with Application, Questionnaire, Feasibility Report and EIA/EMP and
subsequent information submitted vide letter dated 20th June, 2007 for environmental
clearance on the above mentioned project. The Ministry of Environment and Forests
has examined your application. It is noted that M/s POSCO, India – Orissa Pvt. Ltd.
propose to construct an Integrated Iron & Steel Plant of initial capacity 4.0 MTPA
(Final capacity, 12 MTPA) at Kujang, Near Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa. The
initial output will consist of Slabs (1.5 MTPA), HR Coils (2.5 MTPA) and Pig Iron
(20,000 TPA). The plant will also have a Captive Port. Total project area will be
4,004 acres. The company has applied for transfer of 3,097 acres (1,253.225 ha)
forest land. 907 acres of private land is to be acquired. 471 families in the villages of
Dhinkia, Gobindapur, Nuagaon, Polanga, Bhuyanpal, Bayanaik Kandah, Noliasahi,
and Jatadhari, will be re-located and rehabilitated in accordance with the R & R policy
of Orissa Government. No national park, wild life sanctuary, elephant reserve is
located within 7 km.

2.0 State of art technology viz. ‘FINEX’ (from POSCO-Korea and VAJ-Austria) will
be used. Steel melting will be done by the Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) route.

3.0 Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP) will be installed in the BOF shop. Bag
houses will be provided at all critical points. Dust and fugitive emissions from
stockpiles, material transfer points etc. will be abated by water sprinkling and dry-
fogging units. SO₂ emission will be contained within limit by fixing Sulphur in the
slag. The Mahanadhi will supply 10 MGD of water for Phase I as per permission granted. Water consumption will not exceed 3.5 m³/hrs as compared with the standard of 7 m³/hrs. Independent facility for recovery, treatment and recycling of wastewater will be provided at each station. About 97-98% of treated wastewater will be recovered. Only 47 m³/hr treated wastewater will be discharged into the deep sea. Solid waste will be generated in the form of pig iron slag, steel slag, mill scale, dust and sludge. Half will be reused and remaining will be sold. 10% solid waste will be dumped in earmarked area (900 acres) in the plant. An incinerator of the rotary type with post-combustion facilities will be installed.

12.0 Public hearing meeting was held on 15th April, 2007. CRZ clearance for setting up of captive port has been accorded by the MoEF vide letter No. 0-9/2006-I-A-III dated 15th May, 2007. Consent to Establish has been accorded by the Orissa State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) vide letter no. 14160/Ind-II-NOC-4461 dated 12th June, 2007. Total project cost is Rs. 17,113.00 Crores.

4.0 The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above project under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2006 subject to strict compliance of the following specific and general conditions:

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

i) The proposal is recommended for FINEX Process only and no sinter plant and coke oven shall be installed. Project proponent shall obtain fresh environmental clearance in case of any deviation/change in the process is proposed / adopted.

ii) The gaseous emissions from various process units shall conform to the load/mass based standards notified by this Ministry on 19th May, 1993 and standards prescribed from time to time. The state Board may specify more stringent standards for the relevant parameters keeping in view the nature of the industry and its size and location. At no time, the emission level shall go beyond the prescribed standards. On-line continuous monitoring system shall be installed in stacks to monitor SPM and interlocking facilities shall be provided so that process can be automatically stopped in case emission level exceeds the limit.

iii) In-plant control measures for checking fugitive emissions from all the vulnerable sources shall be provided. Fugitive dust emission in stockpiles, material transfer points etc. shall be abated by water sprinkling and dry-fogging systems. Further, specific measures viz. dust and fume extraction system etc. shall also be provided to control the fugitive emissions. Centralized de-dusting system i.e. collection of fugitive emissions through suction hood and subsequent treatment through bag filter or any other device and finally emitted through a stack of appropriately designed and height conforming to the standards for induction furnaces in the industry shall be provided. Fugitive emissions shall be controlled, regularly monitored and records maintained.
xii) Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be done on a regular basis and records maintained as per the Factories Act.

xiii) Recommendations made in the Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) guidelines issued for the steel plants shall be implemented.

xiv) Approval of the forestland shall be obtained under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 prior to the commencement of the construction work at site.

xv) Rehabilitation and resettlement plan shall be implemented as per the policy of the State Govt. of Orissa as per the revised R & R policy in a time bound manner and report submitted to the Ministry, its Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and OPCB.

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

i. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the Orissa Pollution Control Board (OPCB) and the State Government.

ii. No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

iii. At least four ambient air quality-monitoring stations shall be established in the downwind direction as well as where maximum ground level concentration of SPM, SO$_2$ and NO$_x$ are anticipated in consultation with the OPCB. Data on ambient air quality and stack emission shall be regularly submitted to this Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhopal and the OPCB/CPCB once in six months.

iv. Industrial wastewater shall be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. The treated wastewater shall be utilized for plantation purpose.

v. The overall noise levels in and around the plant area shall be kept well within the standards (85 dBA) by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels should conform to the standards prescribed under EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (daytime) and 70 dBA (nighttime).

vi. The project proponent shall also comply with all the environmental protection measures and safeguards recommended in the EIA / EMP report. Further, the company must undertake socio-economic development activities in the surrounding villages like community
iv) Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) shall be provided to Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) shop to control secondary emissions as per the CPCB specification and particulate emissions shall not exceed 50 mg/Nm³. SO₂ emissions shall be contained within the stipulated limit by fixing Sulphur in the slag. NOₓ shall be restricted by control of N₂ to the minimum. Bag houses shall be provided to stock house, coal briquetting, hot compaction etc. to control gaseous emissions.

v) Gas released in primary stage of Hot Compacted iron (HCI) production shall be cleaned, enriched and admixed with downstream gases emanating in steel making in the Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) and used as fuel in the Captive Power Plant (CPP).

vi) Total requirement of the water from Mahanadhi river shall not exceed 10 MGD (45,480 m³/day) although permission for 16.5 MGD is obtained from the Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Orissa to draw water from Jobra barrage. Each production facility shall be provided with independent process wastewater treatment facility for the recovery of treated wastewater and recycling. 97-98% treated wastewater shall be recovered. Remaining treated wastewater not exceeding 1,200 m³/day shall be treated in a CETP and discharged to deep sea after conforming to the prescribed standards. The sanitary wastewater shall be treated in a modular sewage treatment plant and further in CETP and used for green belt development.

vii) Ground water monitoring around the solid waste disposal site / secured landfill (SLF) shall be carried out regularly and report submitted to the Ministry’s Regional Office at Bhubaneswar, CPCB and OCPB.

viii) At least 50 % of the solid waste consisting of pig iron slag, steel slag, mill scale, dust and sludge shall be recycled and reused in the plant itself through cold bonded palletizing plant (CBP) and remaining shall be sold to available industries like cement industry for construction purpose due to pozollonic properties, in-plant railway ballast etc. 90-95% sludge shall be reused. Only 10% of the solid waste shall be dumped at the earmarked 900 acres area within the plant boundary in a suitably designed landfill as per CPCB guidelines to prevent leaching to the sub-soil and underground aquifer. As proposed, dumped area shall be reclaimed through plantation after 15 years when over heaped.

ix) Incinerator shall be installed as per the latest CPCB guidelines.

x) The company shall develop surface water harvesting structures to harvest the rain water for utilization in the lean season besides recharging the ground water table.

xi) Green belt shall be developed in at least 25 % of total project area to mitigate the effects of the air emissions as per the CPCB guidelines in consultation with local DFO.
development programmes, educational programmes, drinking water supply and health care etc.

vii. The project authorities shall utilize Rs. 1,625.00 Crores earmarked for the environmental pollution control measures judiciously to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the State Government alongwith the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so provided shall not be diverted for any other purpose.

viii. The Regional Office of this Ministry at Bhuvneshwar/CPCB/OPCB will monitor the stipulated conditions. A six monthly compliance report and the monitored data along with statistical interpretation shall be submitted to them regularly.

ix. The Project Proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the OPCB/Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at http://envfor.nic.in. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional office at Bhuvneshwar.

x. Project authorities should inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work.

5.0. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.

6.0. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner will implement these conditions.

7.0. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2003 and the Public (Insurance) Liability Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

S/1/…
(Dr. P. B. Rastogi)
Additional Director
Copy to:-

1. The Secretary, State Department of Environment, Govt. of Orissa, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
2. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi – 110 032.
3. Chairman, Orissa Bengal Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, A/118, Neelkanthhanagar, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar - 751 012, Orissa.
4. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Eastern), Regional Office (EZ), A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751 023, Orissa.
5. Joint Secretary (CCI-I), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
7. Monitoring Cell.
8. Guard File.
9. Record File.

(Signed)

(Dr. P. B. Rastogi)
Additional Director
III. COPY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR CAPTIVE MINOR PORT
F. No. 10-9/2006-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA-III Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003,

Dated: 31st January, 2011

To,
M/s Posco India Pvt.Ltd,
7th Floor, Fortune Tower,
Chandrashkharpur,
Bhubaneshwar-751 015
Orissa.

Subject: Amendment to the Environmental clearance issued for the Captive Port at Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa by M/s Posco India Pvt. Ltd. - Reg.

Reference is invited to this Ministry’s environment clearance letter of even number dated 15.05.2007 issued for the construction of proposed captive port at Jatadhara Muhan Creek, Near Paradip, District Jagatsinghpur, Orissa by M/s Posco India Pvt. Ltd.

2. Based on the complaints and various representations against the project, the Ministry constituted a four member committee under the Chairmanship of Ms. Meena Gupta to review the Environment, CRZ and other clearances given by MoEF and State and local authorities in connection with POSCO project.

3. In the light of deliberations of Ms. Meena Gupta Committee related to the Port project, the EAC reviewed the clearance issued for Captive Port in its meetings held on 9th -10th November, 2010, 30th November, 2010 & 1st to 2nd December, 2010 and 25th January, 2011, wherein, the senior officers from State Government of Orissa, Orissa Coastal Zone Management Authority and State Pollution Control Board were attended the meeting on 30th November, 2010 & 1st to 2nd December, 2010. The shoreline study of the stretch from Gopalpur to Paradip carried out along the coast of the proposed Captive Port of M/s Posco India Pvt. Ltd. at Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa by the Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University were also considered.

3. The EAC, after due consideration of the relevant documents submitted by the project proponents and additional clarifications furnished in response to its observations, have recommended that the present proposal for which clearance granted on 15th May 2007 may continue to enforce subject to the additional conditions. Accordingly, the Ministry hereby accords amendment to the Environment Clearance dated
15.05.2007 of the above project as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 & its subsequent amendments and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011, subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows:

I - Shoreline protection

(i) No construction shall be undertaken in the "high erosion" zone as indicated in the map produced the Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University. Port limits as approved by the competent authority along with the coordinates shall also be supplied to the MoEF.

(ii) Shoreline protection measures to counter erosion on the northern side of north breakwater shall be undertaken using appropriate technology including sand by-pass.

(iii) The shoreline shall be protected to ensure that no further erosion occurs on the northern side of the Northern Breakwater up to Paradip.

(iv) The initial shoreline protection shall be carried out through pumping of the good dredged material obtained from capital dredging, to the north of northern breakwater.

(v) A permanent pipeline of a suitable diameter is to be laid below the channel (-23m and below) for sand by-pass system.

(vi) The good dredged material obtained from maintenance dredging (at least about 3 million m³) shall be used for nourishing the northern shoreline in addition to the sand bypassing system.

(vii) The dredging quantities indicated in the report must be updated in the light of dredging carried out for IOCL in the creek after 2007 and consequential likely reduction in the volume.

(viii) Nourishment of the coast shall cover not only the area which is likely to be affected due to construction of breakwater (about 5.5km as per model report of DHI-Fig 2 and 3) but also shall extend till the Paradip Port site.

(ix) For the sand bypassing system an amount of at least Rs.6.0 crores shall be earmarked along with the sufficient budgetary provisions for maintenance including man-power.
I. I Monitoring of shoreline during construction and post-construction phases of the project

(i) A MOU shall be signed between NIO and Posco which shall include works relating to monitoring of the shoreline, sand bypass system, beach nourishment and any other activity that has an impact along the coast/coastal waters. National Center for sustainable Coastal Management shall monitor the progress periodically on behalf of the MoEF.

(ii) Periodical study on shore line changes shall be conducted, mitigation measures taken and report submitted along with the six-monthly monitoring report.

(iii) Posco shall ensure that no industrial activity shall be carried out within CRZ area other than those permissible under the Notification.

II- Site Selection Process

(i) Posco shall submit a modified analysis giving main thrust on environmental issues (marine environment in particular) besides other parameters such as transport logistics, ease of operation etc and finally zeroing in on JMC for development of a captive port.

(ii) To avoid the adverse impact of increased in ship movement (combined of existing and proposed ports), Posco shall assess the cumulative impacts of ship movement on the marine environment and shall submit to the Ministry a detailed EMP to address impacts of the same.

(iii) To avoid the adverse impact of combined terrestrial activities (existing and proposed ports and industries), Posco shall assess the impacts and submit a detailed EMP to address the adverse impacts – if any, to the Ministry. The EMP so prepared should clearly list the role, responsibilities and liabilities including the action plan specifying commitments, role and responsibilities to avoid any adverse impact of terrestrial activities on the marine environment. The developer shall commit to full responsibility for liability and penalty (in case of any adverse impact) if any.

III - Marine Biological Activities - Sea turtle and Horse shoe crabs

(i) Posco shall submit detailed Marine Environment Conservation Plan to promote nesting of Olive Ridley Turtle as well Mangrove Plantation. The implementation of conservation plan should start before commencing of construction of port. The plan
should clearly mention the role and responsibilities in implementation and monitoring the conservation plan along with dedicated funding provisions. The detailed compliance report for the conservation plan shall be submitted every six months.

(ii) Similarly, in the case of horse shoe crabs, Posco shall submit the grain size analysis carried out at the site of development and documentary evidences to show that the animal would prefer a grain size of 0.18 to 0.20 mm only.

(iii) Grain size distribution analysis shall be carried out scientifically by calculating the uniformity coefficient to confirm the sediment grain size that does not support nesting for horse shoe crabs.

IV - Fishing Jetty

(i) The location and size of the fishing jetty intended to compensate the loss of fishing activity arising out of development of the port at JMC shall be carried by Posco in consultation with the local people to their satisfaction and requirement. Separate clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 for the proposed fishing jetty shall be obtained.

(ii) Posco shall made a detailed assessment of the impacts on fishing communities and resultant economic losses covered in R&R package - along with requirement of fishing jetty and identified beneficiaries, location identified for of jetty (and alternative options considered).

V - Sea water Intake and Outfall

(i) A Separate CRZ clearance with details like temperature change, location/site for discharge, conveyance (inlet/outlet), along with impact on marine environment – flora and fauna shall be obtained.

(ii) As the total plant capacity is 12 MTPA, water balance shall be revised and provided for the entire ultimate capacity in the provision for intake and outfall structures. The details shall also include, both during rainy and non-rainy seasons.

VI - Other Conditions

(i) Representative number of sediment samples from the sea bed as well as from the boreholes shall be collected and analysed at least for the metals listed from A1 to A9 under class ‘A’ of the
Schedule-II of the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling, and Transboundary) Rules, 2008 (HW Rules 2008). The locations for collection of representative samples to be selected keeping in mind the wide variation in the concentration of lead, chromium and cadmium provided by the proponent. In case the concentration either or all these metals exceeds the limit of 50mg/kg specified in the HW Rules 2008 at any of the sampling location in the dredging area, the dredged material will be hazardous waste and not be used for any of the proposed activities. This shall also mean that the proposed use of this material (17,962,000 cubic meters) for reclamation for site preparation in the steel plant will have to be dropped. Even in case of its being non-hazardous as per the HW Rules 2008, the material is required to be tested for its leachability using the TCLP test, before starting any dredging activities.

(ii) Material handling system and associated environmental issues in terms of fugitive emission, dust control system (dry fogging system for dust control at port areas particularly for iron ore, coal handling areas), conveyor system, spillage and prevention, type of vessels, wharf side operations, material flow system to the storage yard etc should be examined. Posco shall submit detailed plan for handling fugitive dust emission – including break up of large quantities – type of handling equipment for each category of material along with quantities to be handled. The fugitive dust plan and implementation shall be the responsibility of Posco.

(iii) Posco shall submit details of dredged material (detailed map indicating the location) proposed for reclamation at Plant site in addition to reclamation plan for beach nourishment. 'Non – permissible/hazardous' dredged material shall not used for reclamation. Fresh bathymetry survey shall be carried out before dredging operations and the report submitted to the Ministry.

(iv) Mangrove plantation/shelters belts shall be provided wherever possible and a plan with budgetary provisions shall be submitted before the commencement of the port facility.

(v) Posco shall submit final DPR including the estimation of number of berths during various stages of development and consequential environmental issues, along with implementation programme, for monitoring.

(vi) R & R shall be provided to the affected people as per the norms of State/Central Government.
(vii) Posco shall submit a comprehensive EIA report combining both the terrestrial environment on the landward side (steel plant) and the marine environment on the seaward side (activities connected with captive port) so as to assess i) the cumulative effect of both impacts on the development process in its totality and ii) the appropriate mitigation measures required to be put in place to preserve the environment without undue irretrievable damages. Oil Spill Contingency Management Plan shall be prepared and facilities to deal with Oil spill in and around the port area shall be provided in the port along with the dedicated staff.

(viii) Oil Spill Contingency Management Plan shall be prepared and facilities to deal with Oil spill in and around the port area shall be provided in the port along with the dedicated staff.

(ix) A high level expert monitoring committee shall be set up by the Orissa Government comprising of conservation experts and NGOs representative to oversee monitoring of shoreline (during construction and post construction) including dredging, disposal of dredged material and reclamation processes, Marine Environment Conservation Plan. The composition shall be submitted to the Ministry for approval before the commencement of the port operations.

The other conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance of even no. dated 15.05.2007 (copy enclosed) shall remain unchanged.

\[Signature\]

(Bharat Bhushan)
Director (IA-III)

Copy to:
(1) The Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar-751023.
(2) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.
(3) The Member Secretary, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, Bhubaneswar 751023
(4) The CCF, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests RO (EZ), A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751023
(5) IA - Division, Monitoring Cell, MOEF, New Delhi - 110003.
(6) Guard file.

\[Signature\]

(Bharat Bhushan)
Director (IA)
No.10-9/2006-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(IA-III Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated the 15th May, 2007

Sub: Environmental clearance for construction of a Captive Minor Port proposed by M/s POSCO-India Private Limited at Jatadhari Munah Creek confluence near Paradip, District Jagatsinghpur, Orissa - regarding.

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Reference is invited to the letter No.EE-4/06/15596/F&E, dated 14.9.2006 from Forest and Environment Department, Government of Orissa regarding the subject mentioned. Further letters from M/s POSCO India received vide letter No.Nil, dated 20.12.2006, dated 18.4.2007, dated 23.4.2007, No.PI(CONS)732/06, dated 19.3.2007 and No.PI(CON)0779/2007, dated 13.4.2007 have also been considered. The Orissa State Pollution Control Board has accorded No Objection Certificate for the project vide their Consent No.27466/Ind-II-NOC-4447, dated 9.11.2006. Public hearing for the project has been done on 15.4.2007.

The proposed "Jatadhari Port" is approximately 20°11.85' - 20°42.94' N and 86°32.66'-86°34.84'E and is about 12 km south of Paradip. The distance between the turning circles of Jatadhari port and Pradeep port is 12.9 km. The proposed site is located mainly in Dhinkia, Gobindapur, Nubana and Trilochanpur villages in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa. The steel plant will have a production capacity of 4 million tons per annum in phase 1 and will be expanded to 12 million tons per annum in three phases. The project layout has been planned to minimize the length of breakwater and dredging in front of berth. The raw material berth is allocated at the northeast, nearest to the production plants, in order to shorten cargo flow. The allocation of the product berth at the southwest allows for the berth line to easily extend to meet future expansion plan of the steel plant, if any. The planned bed levels at the berthing basin of the raw material berth and product berth are -20 and -12 m below the CD. The diameter of turning basins in front of the raw material berth and the product berth are 630 and 410 m respectively. These satisfy the conditions for navigation and turning around for the design vessels (1,70,000 and 20,000 DWT). A breakwater is planned in the south side of the port to provide tranquil conditions at the raw material berth against the SW wave. The proposed length of the breakwater is 1600 m. Another breakwater is proposed in the north to provide tranquil conditions inside the port area during the NE monsoon period and also to absorb diffracted wave from the SW. Proposed length of the north breakwater is 1070 m.

The direction of approach channel is almost same as that of the existing Paradip Port, and the route is also to avoid interference with the proposed route of submarine pipeline of IOCL. The water depth of approach channel is designed to be 21 m below CD. The width is planned to be 250 m for one lane, which seems to be sufficient at the phase 1 that does not cause excessive interaction between vessels in the approach channel. The approach channel is planned to be progressively widened to the entrance of harbour which will be finally 500 m wide enough to counter complicated wave actions such as breaking, warping and amplification of wave. Two types of revetments are proposed for the harbour. One type of revetment is exposed to sea and the other adjoining with the Jatadharmohan creek. A sand mound type revetment with in-situ sand up to +7 m with respect to CD with an outer slope of 1:3 protected with filter mat and armour stone for the scour protection due to the river flow is planned inside the creek. The following are the features of the various components of the project:

Approach Channel: An approach channel of 12.98 kms to the berth is proposed with the minimum depth of 21 m below CD so as to accommodate berthing of 1,70,000 DWT vessels.
Raw material berth: The raw material berthing area between the wharf and the side edge of the inner channel will be dredged to 20 m below CD to allow berthing of 1,70,000 DWT vessels.

Product berth: The product and future berthing area will be dredged to 12 m below CD to allow berthing of 30,000 DWT vessels whereas water depth for 50,000 DWT vessels should be 13.5 m.

Dredging volume: Based on the available hydrographic data and considering the following, the capital dredging volume is estimated:

- Side slope of 1:3 for the approach channels, turning basin and berthing basins.
- Vertical tolerance of 0.9 m and horizontal tolerance of 5.5 m in both directions for channels and basins where 20 m water depth are required.
- Vertical tolerance of 0.7 m and horizontal tolerance of 4.7 m in both directions for channels and basins where 20 m water depth are required.

Reclamation would be carried out using the dredged material and additional earth. It is estimated that 60,496 m$^3$ X 1000 m$^3$ of earth material would be required for reclamation. The quantity of sand for estimated sand fill from actual ground level to 6.5(+CD) has been calculated at 18,903,000 m$^3$ for Phase 1 and 10,075,000 m$^3$ for phase 2 respectively. To protect the slope of dikes exposed to sea or river, a shore protection with sand cement bag would be used since it is a very cost efficient solution. For the construction of the containment dikes and access berms to 7 m (+CD), the soil at the existing ground will be utilized by dozer. Before any sand is discharged ashore, the area to be reclaimed will be surrounded by primary retaining bunds. All surface water will be collected and routed down in a manner that erosion of the reclamation fill be controlled and routed to appropriate drainage disposal points. 3 dredgers with 12,000 HP capacity would be mobilized for 12 months into the dredging work of mooring and turning basin, and then, 2 of them would be transferred to the dredging work of the navigation channel for 18 months.

Accordingly, environmental clearance from Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time is hereby accorded to the project subject to effective implementation of the following conditions:

(A) Specific Conditions:

(i) The company must take up and earmark adequate funds for the socio-economic development and welfare measures in the area including drinking water supply, vocational training, fishery related development programmes (like cold storages), hospitals, schools etc. These should be taken up on priority.

(ii) The project proponent should implement all the measures that have been suggested by them in the clarification letter dated 20.12.2006 provided to the Ministry.

(iii) All the issues raised in the public hearing report submitted to the Ministry vide letter dated 18.4.2007 should be addressed comprehensively. An action taken report should be submitted to Government of Orissa and Ministry of Environment and Forests within 6 months from the date of receipt of this letter.

(iv) The project proponent will not undertake any destruction of mangroves during construction and operation of the project.

(v) Reclamation should be carried out within the port limits as per the Reclamation Plan submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(vi) A programme for Mangrove Conservation and Development in the region may be taken by the Company through a scientific/public spirited body for evolving sustainable and long term
strategies. The implementation of the conservation plan shall be monitored by the Environmental Cell of the company and a periodic report shall be submitted to the Ministry’s Regional Office.

(vii) The fishing activities by the fishermen living in the settlement along the creek should not be hindered and a mechanism may be evolved for the movement of fishing boats vis-a-vis shipping activities.

(viii) Company should take up green belt programme in the project area including an ecological park and a plan may be submitted to the Ministry within one year.

(ix) The height of dumping in the dumping site should be restricted to 30 cm.

(x) Sewage arising in the port area should be disposed off through septic tank – soak pit system or shall be treated alongwith the industrial effluents to conform to the standards stipulated by Orissa Pollution Control Board and should be utilized/re-cycled for gardening, plantation and irrigation.

(xi) Project proponent should regularly update the Disaster Management Plan from time to time and ensure its implementation.

(xii) There should be no withdrawal of ground water in CRZ area, for this project. The proponent shall ensure that as a result of the proposed constructions, ingress of saline water into ground water is not take place. Piezometers shall be installed for regular monitoring for this purpose at appropriate locations on the project site.

(xiii) The project should not be commissioned till the requisite water supply and electricity to the project are provided by the PWD/Electricity Department.

(xiv) Specific arrangements for rainwater harvesting should be made in the project design and the rain water so harvested should be optimally utilized. Details in this regard should be furnished to this Ministry’s Regional Office at Bhubaneswar within 3 months.

(xv) The facilities to be constructed in the CRZ area as part of this project should be strictly in conformity with the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 1991 as amended subsequently.

(xvi) No product other than those permissible in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 shall be stored in the Coastal Regulation Zone area.

(xvii) The project affected people should be rehabilitated as per the norms laid down by the concerned agency of the State/Central Government.

B. General Conditions:

(i) Construction of the proposed structures should be undertaken meticulously conforming to the existing Central/local rules and regulations including Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 & its amendments. All the construction designs / drawings relating to the proposed construction activities must have approvals of the concerned State Government Departments / Agencies.

(ii) Adequate provisions for infrastructure facilities such as water supply, fuel, sanitisation etc. should be ensured for construction workers during the construction phase of the project so as to avoid falling of trees/mangroves and pollution of water and the surroundings.

(iii) The project authorities must make necessary arrangements for disposal of solid wastes and for the treatment of effluents by providing a proper wastewater treatment plant outside the CRZ area. The effluents must comply with the standards laid
(iv) The proponent shall obtain the requisite consents for discharge of effluents and emissions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Orissa Pollution Control Board before commissioning of the project and a copy of each of these shall be sent to this Ministry.

(v) The proponents shall provide for a regular monitoring mechanism so as to ensure that the treated effluents conform to the prescribed standards. The records of analysis reports must be properly maintained and made available for inspection to the concerned State/Central officials during their visits.

(vi) In order to carry out the environmental monitoring during the operational phase of the project, the project authorities should provide an environmental laboratory well equipped with standard equipment and facilities and qualified manpower to carry out the testing of various environmental parameters.

(vii) The sand dunes and mangroves, if any, on the site should not be disturbed in any way.

(viii) A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to the concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.

(ix) The Orissa Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Centre and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.

(x) The funds earmarked for environment protection measures should be maintained, in a separate account and there should be no diversion of these funds for any other purpose. A year-wise expenditure on environmental safeguards should be reported to this Ministry's Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and the State Pollution Control Board.

(xi) Full support should be extended to the officers of this Ministry's Regional Office at Bhubaneswar and the officers of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards by the project proponents during their inspection for monitoring purposes, by furnishing full details and action plans including the action taken reports in respect of mitigative measures and other environmental protection activities.

(xii) In case of deviation or alteration in the project including the implementing agency, a fresh reference should be made to this Ministry for modification in the clearance conditions or imposition of new ones for ensuring environmental protection.

(xiii) This Ministry reserve the right to revoke this clearance, if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with to the satisfaction of this Ministry.

(xiv) This Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any other additional conditions subsequently, if deemed necessary, for environmental protection, which shall be complied with.

(xv) The project proponent should advertise in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment & Forests at http://www.envfor.nic.in. The advertisement should be made within 7 days from the date of issue of the clearance letter and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Bhubaneswar.

(xvi) The Project proponents should inform the Regional Office at Bhubaneswar as well as the Ministry the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of Land Development Work.
The above mentioned stipulations will be enforced among others under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Hazardous Chemicals (Manufacture, Storage and Import) Rules, 1989, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and its subsequent amendments and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and the Rules made thereunder from time to time. The project proponents should also ensure that the proposal complies with the provisions of the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of Orissa State and the Supreme Court's order dated 18th April, 1996 in the Writ Petition No.664 of 1993 to the extent the same are applicable to this proposal.

(Dr. A. Senthil Vel)
Additional Director

To:
Mr. Gee-Woong Sung,
Vice-President, Construction/Environment,
POSCO-India Limited, 7th Floor,
Fortune Tower, Chandrasekharpur,
Bhubaneswar-751015, Orissa

Copy to:
(i) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
(ii) The Chairman, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, (Department of Forest and Environment), Government of Orissa, Paribesh Bhavan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012.
(iv) Director (III)
(v) The Regional Office Cell, MoEF.
(vii) Guard File.
(viii) Monitoring File
IV. COPY OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE ORISSA STATE GOVERNMENT REGARDING FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006 IN THE POSCO PROJECT AREA
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 31851/SSD, Bhubaneswar dated the 24th 8-10
TD-II-32/08

From
Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS
Special Secretary to Govt.

To
The Under Secretary,
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs, FRA Unit
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

Sub: Implementation of the STs and Other Tradition Forest Dwellers
(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in Orissa.

Ref:- No.17011/1/2008 FRA dt.09.08.2010 & No.17011/1/2008 FRA
dt.11.08.2010

Sir,

I am directed to invite references on the captioned subject and to
enclose the information on News Paper cutting published in the “Rastriya Saham”
and “Dainik Bhaskar” on POSCO project for your kind information and necessary
action.

Enclosure- As Stated

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Special Secretary to Govt.
Information on News Paper cutting published in the “Rastriya Sahara” and “Dainik Bhasker” on POSCO project

- There are no tribals in occupation nor residing within the POSCO project area and no traditional forest dwellers are also there in occupation more than 75 years.
- On a bare reading of the definition of “Other Traditional Forest Dwellers” U/s 2 (a) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, it is transpired that it has got two ingredients— the requirement of residence and dependence on forest land for three generations i.e 75 years. The requirement of residence having been dispensed with by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in their circular No.17014/02/2007-PC & V (Vol.II), dated 9 June 2008, the second ingredient i.e. dependence on forest land for 75 years prior to 13.12.2005 remains unchanged. Any person claiming semblance of rights as OTPD must establish with clear, cogent & convincing materials that he has been in possession of any forest land since three generations prior to 13th December 2005. This has not been done.

As regards transfer of land for POSCO project, it is submitted that Ac.561.41 of non forest Govt. land has been leased out in favour of IDCO for the project. However, no forest land has yet been handed over to IDCO to carry out any construction activities thereon.

- The district administration has undertaken extensive measures to educate the public, PRI members and public officials at the district, block, village and hamlet level about individual rights and community rights of tribals and traditional forest dwellers over forest land under their occupation, formed FRCs in all villages and distributed Certificates of Title to 47 tribals where they are in possession. On the contrary, the members of the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti in their meeting dtd.01.06.2010 with the RDC (CD), Cuttack had submitted a series of documents to establish their possession over the forest land in the village Dhinkia & Gobindapur. It was established on enquiry that those records were forged documents manufactured to create confusion in the process of land acquisition for POSCO project.
Government of Orissa
Forest & Environment Department

No.10 F (Cons) - 54/2007- 29782/F&E dated : 21/10/10

From
Dr Aurobindo Behera, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government

To
The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment & Forest,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sub: Report submitted by Ms Meena Gupta Committee dated 18.10.2010 on POSCO Project in Orissa - Submission of comments of the State Government regarding.

Sir,
I am directed to invite a reference to the letter dated 19.10.2010 of Hon’ble Minister of State, Environment & Forests, Government of India addressed to Hon’ble Chief Minister Orissa on the subject. The report dated 18.10.2010 submitted by Ms Meena Gupta Committee on POSCO Project in Orissa has been downloaded and perused from the Website of the MoEF. Though two separate reports have been submitted by the Members of the Committee, comments have been made basically over three issues, such as -

(i) Implementation of Forest Rights Act in the POSCO Project area
(ii) R&R Package for the project
(iii) Adequacies of Environment and CRZ clearance accorded by MoEF for the Project.

Basing on the feedback received from the concerned Departments of the State Government, implementing the above aspects, the comments of the State Government is furnished as under:


The District Administration of Jagatsinghpur have taken extensive steps for creating adequate awareness among the people at the District,
Block, Village and Hamlet Level and also for sensitization of the concerned Stakeholders. Besides, the F.R.Act and Rules of English version was translated in Oriya Language within a week’s time of the issuance of the Rules and distributed among various kinds of stakeholders throughout the State including the Project Area to facilitate generation of awareness. Forest Rights Committees were formed on 23.3.2008 in Dhinkia, Gobindpur, Nuagaon and Polanga villages and applications were invited from people having claims for settlement under the Forest Rights Act. Subsequently on 19.1.2009, Forest Right Committees were also constituted in Nolia Sahi and Bhuyanpal. Apart from the above efforts, advertisements in local/ regional news paper about the provisions of the FR Act have been brought out at regular interval. However, no claims were received from any of the villages mentioned above. Incidentally, of all the districts of the State, Jagatsinghpur district has the second highest literacy rate in the State as per 2001 census. In absence of any claims being made before the concerned Forest Rights Committee, it would not be proper to allege that the provisions of the Forest Rights Act have been violated. May it be mentioned that 47 claims have been settled under the FR Act in the same Block outside the Project area in the recent months. Hence it is not correct to assume that wide publicity was not given to the people about the FR Act.

It is also pertinent to mention here that not a single person has claimed redressal under the definition of “Other Traditional Forest Dwellers” under Section 2(o) of the Forest Rights Act. The prescribed eligibility as envisaged in the Act is dependence on the Forest Land for 75 years prior to 13.12.2005 as per records has not been claimed by a single person till the visit of the Committee and thereafter till date. Regarding the possible rights mentioned by some of the members of the Committee relating to Community Forest Rights, it will be worthwhile to point out that the entire land was recorded as Forest Land only in the year 1961 and therefore, the matter in respect of either individual claims or community
claims for a period of 75 years does not arise. It also further needs to be mentioned that as per the facts given by the district administration not a single tribal individual is a resident of the area under reference. As mentioned by the chairperson of the Committee, the project site is not a part of the 5th Schedule area and is in fact far away from the nearest schedule area.

Further, dependence on cashew trees for seasonal collection of fruits or on betel vine cannot be treated as a community claim. At best, it can be an individual claim. Cashew and betel vine being non-forestry activity (as per provisions of F.C. Act, 1980), dependence on such crop should not qualify to be treated as Forest Right.

Regarding the MoEF Circular dated 03.08.2009, it may be mentioned here that the Forest Rights Act does not specifically provide for obtaining certificate from concerned Gram Sabha regarding completion of the FRA. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007, the Gram Sabha is supposed to recommend the considered cases to the Sub-divisional Level Committee after passing a resolution on claims on Forest Rights giving reasonable opportunity to interested persons. Thus, the recommendation of MoEF in their letter No.11-9/1998-FC(Pt) dated 03.08.2009 asking for letter of the Gram Sabha indicating that all formalities/ processes under the FRA have been carried out, seems more like an executive instruction rather than a statutory provision under FRA, 2006.

From the above, it is quite clear that the observation regarding the District Administration being unfair and undemocratic is uncharitable. Through a number of measures described above, the District Administration has taken adequate steps for creating the required awareness. The Constitution of the Forest Rights Committee in respective villages as well as conduct of Palli Sabhas has been done as per the provisions of the Forest Rights Act. The very fact that there was no credible
claim to prove 75 years of dependence on the Forest Resources has resulted in a single application not being filed before the FRC. In view of this, the recommendation to the FRA process afresh is not justified and given the facts and circumstances mentioned above, may not result in any new findings/ relief under the Forest Rights Act.

Rehabilitation & Resettlement Package:

Regarding observations made by the Committee that the Rehabilitation package should take into account the loss of livelihoods, provide land for land, compensation amount for vulnerable sections including women, labourers and old people etc., it may be stated that as per Orissa Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 as amended the Rehabilitation and Periphery Development Advisory Committee(RPDAC) which is chaired by the Revenue Divisional Commissioner is competent to take decision in these issues. Incidentally, the RPDAC has representations from various sections of project affected families including SC/ST, women, displaced families, local NGOs, women self-help groups, MP and Members of Legislative Assembly of the District, local Panchayati Raj Institution Members. In the instant case, the benefits for the project affected people have been decided in the meeting in a most transparent way. The district administration of Jagatsinghpur has discussed the packages with the project affected people on various occasions. There has been widespread acceptance of the project in as much as six out of seven affected villages which have no objection to it. Even in the seventh village (Dhinka) where there is some opposition there is large section of people who are in favour of the project.

The RPDAC in its meeting on 8.7.2010 has discussed all the issues in detail and has taken suitable decisions on the packages which have been accepted by the people. The R&R package includes provision of a jetty and boats for fishermen. Similar safeguards have also been provided for landless
wage earners living in the project area in the shape of cash compensation and also jobs during the construction phase. They will be imparted necessary skills in Technical Training Institutes for greater employability. The details of the packages finalized by the RPDAC in its meeting dated 8.7.2010 relating to POSCO Project is enclosed (Annexure - A).

Environment & CRZ Clearances:

After Environmental Clearance has been granted based on an Environmental Impact Assessment Study duly conducted as per the laid down procedure, the only authority that may review the procedure adopted is vested on the National Environmental Appellate Authority. Similarly, CRZ clearance is given by the MoEF based on the recommendation of the State CRZ Authority. These two clearances have been given after following elaborate statutory procedures and the Committee did not have any technical competence to review these. Moreover, the process of establishment of Steel Plant and the captive minor port have not been initiated as yet, hence it may be premature to review any of its compliances at this stage.

POSCO India Ltd. has proposed to establish a 12 MTPY integrated steel plant in 3 phases of 4 MTPY each and so far EC for establishment of first phase of 4 MTPY steel plant has been granted. The project proponents are required to apply for EC before they take up further expansion. At that point of time, the State Govt. will meticulously review the compliance to the conditions stipulated while granting EC.

MoEF has prepared the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) for polluted industrial clusters and Paradeep with a score of 69.26 has been identified as a severely polluted area. For the Critically polluted areas having a CEPI score of more than 70, MoEF has defined the geographic boundaries and has advised the State Pollution Control Boards
to prepare Pollution Abatement Action Plan. Since Paradeep has not been identified as critically polluted its boundary has not been defined. The proposed POSCO Steel Plant and Port is about 12 Km south of Paradeep Industrial area and does not come within the Paradeep NAC. It is, therefore, unlikely to be a part of the severely polluted zone. Moreover, the EC was granted 3 years prior to preparation of CEPI, so the question of its re-evaluation in the light of CEPI is inappropriate.

'Consent to Establish' is granted on the basis of the recommendation of a Technical Committee constituted by the State Pollution Control Board. Each and every recommendation of the Technical Committee has been incorporated as conditions in the 'Consent to Establish' order. Therefore, the observation that the State Pollution Control Board has abdicated its responsibility is not correct.

Public Hearing has been strictly conducted as per the EIA notification 2006. The EIA reports were made available at the designated places as per the EIA notification 2006. Moreover, the State Pollution Control Board also ensured that all the stakeholders get access to the document. There is no provision for holding separate Public Hearing for specific Stakeholder groups such as traditional fishing community, farmers, etc. The venue for the public hearing was consciously selected at the block Headquarters of Kujanga to ensure that all the stakeholder groups have easy access to the venue. Police personnel were present to ensure that all the groups could participate in the deliberations without any fear or coercion.

The issue of severe erosion along the coast line near the Paradeep port area was discussed in detail in the meeting of Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority held on 7th August, 2006 and ameliorative measures to prevent the same have been recorded in the minutes. It is humbly submitted that the apprehension of 3 members of the committee has already been taken into consideration and if any adverse impact comes to the notice
of Govt. immediate corrective or preventive measures would be taken. Moreover, the proposed integrated steel plant is outside the CRZ and hence technically CRZ clearance is not required for this. The proposed captive minor port comes under CRZ and as per the Para 6(2) of CRZ Notification, 1991 storing of non-hazardous cargo within notified port area is permissible in CRZ-I, CRZ-II and CRZ-III areas.

Regarding observation of mismatch of CRZ map, the same was rectified and the super imposed map has been submitted to MoEF on 14th September, 2006 along with recommendations of the Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority for consideration of grant of EC under CRZ Notification.

As per the observation recorded in the meeting of Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority held on 7th August, 2006 the project proponent has prepared a comprehensive report on Marine Environmental Impact Assessment for setting up of a captive minor port at Jatadharmohan creek near Paradeep in Orissa through National Institute of Oceanography, Goa during July, 2007. Further, the project proponent had also prepared comprehensive environmental Impact Assessment for 4 MTPY integrated steel project to be set up near Paradeep in Orissa through M.N. Dastur & Co. during July, 2007.

Construction of ports and harbours in CRZ areas are permissible activities as per para 3(2)(ii) of CRZ Notification, 1991. The construction of port will be done by the project proponent as per their plan submitted along with application for consideration of grant of EC under CRZ notification, 1991.

In the above paragraphs, we have tried to present the factual position as it is found in records and obtained on the ground. The work on the plant and other ancillary infrastructure is yet to commence. The State
Government is committed to a balanced and inclusive development of the State and keeping this objective in view, investment proposals are being processed. While the State Government would like to see that the projects which contribute to the development of the State come up as early as possible, it would also like to ensure that adequate environmental safeguards are in place and every family directly or indirectly affected by the project has a better standard of living compared to the present one. To this end, if Government of India decides to impose any additional conditionality on the environment clearance already issued by them, the same would be complied with in course of implementation of the project.

The State Government would also continue to monitor various parameters relating to the environment including the coastal zone ecosystem. Similarly, there is an institutional mechanism to address all relevant issues relating to Resettlement and Rehabilitation. This institutional mechanism would be sensitive enough to ensure that no deserving person is left out from the R&R framework.

It is, therefore, requested that Government of India may examine the matter in its proper perspective and allow the project work to continue.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Principal Secretary to Government
# ANNEXURE – A

## A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT ON REHABILITATION PACKAGE FOR POSCO PROJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>GOVT. NORM</th>
<th>PACKAGE DECLARED BY POSCO EARLIER</th>
<th>PACKAGE APPROVED IN RPDAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Ac0.10</td>
<td>Ac 0.10</td>
<td>Ac 0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House/Building Ass.</td>
<td>Rs. 1,66,000/-</td>
<td>3- Room House varandah, Kitchen, Bathroom &amp; Toilet(662 sft) And cattle Shed (101 sft) or equivalent cost</td>
<td>3- Room House with varandah, Kitchen, Bathroom &amp; Toilet(743 sft) and Cattle shed (203 sft) Only to the nucleus family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Shed</td>
<td>Rs. 11,100/-</td>
<td>Directly to the Rehabilitation Colony</td>
<td>Not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Allowance</td>
<td>Rs. 2,300/-</td>
<td>Rs. 2,300/-</td>
<td>Rs. 5,000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Allowance</td>
<td>Rs. 2,300/- x 12 months</td>
<td>Rs. 2,300/- x 12 months</td>
<td>Rs. 2,300/- x 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self Relocation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Cost</td>
<td>Rs. 56,000/-</td>
<td>Equivalent Cost</td>
<td>Equivalent Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Building - Asst.</td>
<td>Rs. 165,000/-</td>
<td>Equivalent Cost</td>
<td>Equivalent Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment/ Self Employment</td>
<td>Employment in preferential order</td>
<td>Employment in preferential order</td>
<td>Employment in preferential order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in lieu of Job</td>
<td>Cash in lieu of job</td>
<td>Cash in lieu of job</td>
<td>Cash in lieu of job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for Setting up of Shops and Service units.</td>
<td>Assistance for Setting up of Shops and Service units</td>
<td>Assistance for Setting up of Shops and Service units</td>
<td>Assistance for Setting up of Shops and Service units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B) Displaced Family from Govt. land</strong></td>
<td>Homesteadless person in possession of unobjectionable govt. land 10 years prior to 4(1) Notification will get ex-gratia equivalent to compensation upto 1/10(^{th}) of an acre admissible</td>
<td>As applicable</td>
<td>As applicable To Displaced Families from Private Land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encroachers of agricultural land</td>
<td>Landless Person in Possession of Unobjectionable Govt. land 10 years prior to 4(1) Notification Will get ex-gratia equal to compensation upto a maximum of one standard acre admissible to private land owner under L.A. Act inclusive of the land owned by him.</td>
<td>Rs. 75,000/- Irrespective of years of possession per acre.</td>
<td>Rs. 1,00,000/- Per acre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) 100% land loser</td>
<td>Employment in preferential order</td>
<td>Employment in preferential order</td>
<td>Employment in preferential order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment Ability Training</td>
<td>Employment Ability Training</td>
<td>Employment Ability Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Partial land loser</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
<td>Employment Training</td>
<td>Employment Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betel vine</td>
<td>Rs. 6,000/- per dec.</td>
<td>Rs. 7,000/- per dec.</td>
<td>Rs. 11,500/- per dec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prawn pond</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
<td>Rs. 1,00,000/-</td>
<td>Rs. 2,00,000/- per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labours engaged in betel vines</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
<td>15% of the Compensation amount payable to betel vine owners is to be paid to the labourers. Un-employment Allowance of Rs. 1500/- per months to each labourer upto 1 year or till he is engaged by the company</td>
<td>20% of the Compensation amount payable to betel vine owners is to be paid to the labourers. Un-employment Allowance of Rs. 2,250/- per months to each labourer upto 1 year or till he is engaged by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation for private land</td>
<td>through contractors in the project or ancillary project.</td>
<td>the company through contractors in the project or ancillary project.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>As per rate approved under L.A. Act</td>
<td>As per rate approved by the Govt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For fruit bearing Trees on Govt. Land in private Occupation</td>
<td>As per Govt. norms.</td>
<td>As per Govt. Norms.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rs. 17,00,000/- per acre for all type or land including solatium &amp; Interest.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was also brought to the notice of the RPDAC that the people of Nuagaon, Noliasahi, Dhinkia, Gobindapur, Polanga, Bhuyanpal & Gadakunjang have formed committees like 'Bana Surakshya Samiti' though not registered, in their own villages since long and have been guarding the casuarinas plants planted by the Forest Department and enjoying the usufructuary benefits thereof. The RPDAC appreciated their initiative in this matter and authorized the Collector to submit a proposal on proper enquiry as to how certain percentage of the sale proceeds of the standing trees of forest species within the POSCO project area shall be earmarked for the people of those villages who have been guarding the said plantation.

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ANNEXURE-II

• MOS(I/C) E&F order of April 14th, 2011
Subject: POSCO

April 14th, 2011:

On January 31st 2011, I had issued a “speaking order” on the proposed project of POSCO in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha comprising of (i) an integrated steel-cum-captive power plant; and (ii) a captive minor port. The decisions contained in the speaking order were as follows:

- Environmental clearance had been accorded to the integrated steel-cum-captive power plant with 28 additional conditions over and above that stipulated in the original environmental clearance of July 19th, 2007.
- Environmental clearance was also accorded to the captive minor port with 32 additional conditions over and above stipulated in the original environmental clearance of May 15th, 2007.
- Forest clearance for the project complex was made conditional on getting a categorical assurance from the state government that at least one of the three conditions enshrined in the Forest Rights Act, 2006—two in Section 2(o) and another in Section 4(3)—is not fulfilled in the case of those claiming to be dependent on or cultivating land in the POSCO project area.

On April 13th, 2011, the MoE&F received a communication from the state government which is at Annex-I. On the face of it, it would appear that the state government has provided an assurance along the lines sought for in my speaking order. However, just two days earlier on April 11th 2011, I had received an email representation from the POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Committee which is in Annex-II. I immediately forwarded a copy of this new representation to both the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Odisha. The representation talks about Palli Sabha Resolutions of the villages of Dhinkia and Gobindapur that have not been considered by the state government authority concerned.
While it is true that the state government had earlier categorically denied the authenticity of documentation submitted by the POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Committee, I do believe that these two Resolutions have to be disposed off by the appropriate authority in accordance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006, especially keeping in mind the provisions of Section 4(5) of the Act which states:

"Save as otherwise provided, no member of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dweller shall be evicted or removed from forest land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is completed." [Emphasis Added]

After receiving information from the state government that the appropriate authority has completed the process of recognition and verification procedure for all the villages from where forest land is to be transferred for non-forestry purposes, a final decision regarding forest clearance will be taken.

Ignoring these two Palli Sabha Resolutions and not allowing them to be subjected to a due process of law as enshrined in the Forest Rights Act, 2006 would be tantamount, in my considered opinion, to violating the very essence of this legislation passed unanimously and with acclaim by Parliament.

Jairam Ramesh  
MOS(I/C)E&F  
April 14th, 2011
ANNEX-I
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 10F (Cons) - 561/2011(Pt) F&E. Dated:

From: B.P. Singh, IFS
Special Secretary to Government

Sub: Diversion of 1253.225 Hac. of forest land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant & Captive Port by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to the order dated 31.1.2011 of Hon’ble Union Minister, Environment & Forest and your letter F. No. 8-03/2007-PC dated 10.2.2011 in which the categorical assurance of the State Government was sought for in the matter of ensuring and guaranteeing compliance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in the POSCO Project area in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa in order to take a final decision on diversion of forest land by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Later, Hon’ble Union Minister, Environment & Forests in his letter dated 22.2.2011 addressed to the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Orissa had also drawn the attention regarding violation of Forest Rights Act in the POSCO project area as alleged by Sri Prasant Pattnayag.

Since the issues raised above are about ensuring implementation of Forest Rights Act and alleged violation of the said Act in the POSCO Project area, the ST & SC Development Department, which is the Nodal department for implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the State and
The Collector, Jagatsinghpur, who is the Chairperson of the District Level Committee constituted under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, were asked to look into the matter and submit compliance.

After necessary examination of the matter, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, ST & SC Development Department in his letter No. 0770 dated 7.3.2011, based on the report of Collector, Jagatsinghpur, has confirmed that no one satisfies the conditions laid down under Section 2[(e)] of the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers[Recognition of Forest Rights] Act, 2006 to be treated as "other traditional forest dwellers" in the forest land involved in the POSCO project area, who has for at least three generations prior to 130-day of December, 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forest land for bonafide livelihood needs. This observation of the Nodal department of the State Government clarifies that at least one of the three stipulations prescribed in para 19 of the order of Hon’ble Union Minister for Environment & Forests regarding eligibility of an applicant to be regarded as Other Traditional Forest Dwellers for settlement of individual/community forest rights as per provisions of the Forest Rights Act is not fulfilled in respect of any person in the POSCO project area. The copies of the letters of the Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, ST & SC Development Department and the Collector, Jagatsinghpur district are enclosed for reference.

Further, Hon’ble Union Minister, Environment & Forests in his letter dated 12.3.2011 had drawn the attention of Hon’ble Chief Minister, Orissa to the resolutions passed by Dhinkia and Gobindapur villages of Dhinkia GP appended with another representation of Sri Prasanta Patnaik indicating their opposition to setting up of Steel Plant Project by POSCO India Pvt. Ltd. in their area along with their eligibility to be treated as Other Traditional Forest Dwellers under the provisions of Forest Rights Act. The matter has been thoroughly enquired/examined by the Collector, Jagatsinghpur district (Chairperson of the District Level
Committee constituted under the Forest Rights Act) and the ST &SC Development Department (Nodal department for implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the State).

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST &SC Development Department vide his letter No. 11807 dt. 31.3.2011, based on the latest report of the Collector, Jagatsinghpur, has again reiterated the earlier position that no one satisfies the conditions to be treated as "other traditional forest dwellers" in the forest land involved in the POSCO project area. The copies of letter of Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, ST&SC Development Department dated 31.3.2011 and the copy of letter dated 27.3.2011 of the Collector, Jagatsinghpur are enclosed herewith for kind reference.

In view of the factual position, Government of India, MoEF may allow diversion of 1253.225 ha. of forest land for establishment of the Steel Plant.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. G 3.57 /P&E Dr. D - 4 - II

Copy with copy of the enclosures forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government
Memo No. 6358  /F&EP Dt. 8-4-11
Copy forwarded to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST & SD, Development Department for information with reference to his letter No. 9770 dt. 7.3.2011.

Memo No. 6357  /F&EP Dt. 8-4-11
Special Secretary to Government
Copy forwarded to the Pr. CCF, Orissa/Pr. CCF(WL)&CWL, Orissa for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6360  /F&EP Dt. 8-4-11
Special Secretary to Government
Copy forwarded to the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, IDCO, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6361  /F&EP Dt. 8-4-11
Special Secretary to Government
Copy forwarded to the RDC, Central Division, Cuttack/Collector, Jagatsinghpur/RCCF, Bhubaneswar/Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar(WL)/Division for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6362  /F&EP Dt. 8-4-11
Special Secretary to Government
Copy forwarded to the Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of Orissa, Orissa Bhawan, 4, Bardoli Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021 for information and necessary action.
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
JAGATSINGHPUR

No 772/Dt 27.3.2011

To: The Commissioner-cum-Secretary
ST & SC Development Department
Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Diversion of 1253.226 hec. of Forest Land for establishment of
Integrated Steel Plant for captive port by POSCO India Pvt. Ltd. in
Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa.

Ref: Letter No.11044/SSD dt. 23.03.2011

In inviting a reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to
say that on an earlier occasion, in his letter addressed to the Hon'ble Minister,
Environment & Forest, Govt of India, New Delhi, Mr. Prasanta Kumar
Fakrally had raised the issues of violation of the provisions of Forest Right
Act in POSCO project: area and refusal of consent for diversion of forest
land for POSCO project by the Gram Sabhas of Gobindapur & Dhinkia
villages. The response on the matter had been submitted to the ST & SC
Development Department vide letter No.542 dt. 01.03.2011. With the present
letter two resolutions have been appended purportedly passed by the Patli
Sabha of Dhinkia village on 21.02.2011 and that of Gobindapur village on
23.02.2011 extending the period of filing of Individual and Community claims
under F R Act for another three months & asserting dependency of people on
the forest land for three generations. The B.D.O. Erasama vide his letter
No. J13 dt. 26.02.2011 has reported that the date for convening of Patli
Sabha of Dhinkia village was fixed to 26.02.2011 and that of Gobindapur on
22.02.2011 as decided in the monthly Dhinkia G.P. meeting held on
26.01.2011. Notices to that effect were served in the respective villages under
the seal and signature of Sri Sisir Kumar Mohapatra the Sarpanch of Dhinkia
G.P., which would be well evident from the Notice Book maintained separately
for different villages of Dhinkia G.P. Resolutions of Patli Sabha of these two
villages have also been passed on the appointed dates. It is surprising to find
that the so called resolutions the extracts of which have been appended to the
letter of Mr. Paikray have not been recorded in the Palli Sabha Registers of the villages in question. If the Pall Sabha of these two villages were so sure about non-implementation of Forest Rights Act in their villages they might have extended the period of filing of individual and community claims beyond the period of 3 months in any of a series of Resolutions they passed on different occasions. The individual as well as community claim of any of the villagers could have been discussed and resolution to that effect passed in those meetings. However, Rule 5 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964 provides that the Sarpanch shall give notice of the meeting in this case the established procedure and practice has not been followed. Instead of allowing the GP Secretary to issue the notice and record proceedings for the purpose in Pall Sabha Register of the GP, the Sarpanch, which well known anti POSCO activist and functioning as Secretary of the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti, has simply asked the Secretary to attend the meeting. But the fact remains that the special meeting of the Pall Sabha of the villages Dhinkia and Gobindpur were never convened and no resolution have been passed within the meaning of section 6 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964 read with Rule 5 of Orissa Gram Panchayat Rules 1968 and Rule-11(6) of the Forest Rights Rules, 2008. On a close scrutiny of the Pall Sabha Notice Book of villages Dhinkia and Gobindpur it is evident that notices for the Special Pall Sabha meeting do not find mention in the Notice Book and the alleged Pall Sabha Resolutions recorded in the Resolution Book. Extracts of the Notice Book and Resolution Book of both the villages are enclosed herewith for proper appreciation of fact. It is therefore sufficient to hold that the so called Pall Sabha Resolutions relating to Gobindpur and Dhinkia village appended to the letter of Mr. Paikray are forged and fabricated documents manufactured by Mr. Mohapatra with the sole intention of stalling the process of diversion of forest land for POSCO project. In this case the Sarpanch of Dhinkia GP has abused his official position to mislead the MoEF.

In this connection it is submitted that similar type of resolutions were submitted earlier before the visiting Forest Rights Act Committee Members with ulterior motive to stall the process of diversion of forest land. However the MoEF has cleared the proposal on conditions of categorical assurance from...
the Govt. of Orissa to the effect that none of the people claiming to be dependent on or cultivating land in the POSCO project area fulfill at least one of the three conditions essential to qualify as other Traditional Forest Dwellers (TFDs): The alleged Palli Sabha Resolutions dt.21.02.2011 & 23.02.2011 in villages Dhinkia & Gobindapur respectively are nothing but a well-thought-out master attempt to constrict development of the locality in general and direct POSCO project work in particular.

It is further submitted that a detailed information on the matter has been submitted to the ST & SC Development Department vide the letter under reference. A copy of our earlier response is enclosed herewith for your kind appreciation and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Collector & District Magistrate
Jagatsinghpur
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

From
Shri Santosh Sarangi, IAS
Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt.

To
The Principal Secretary,
Forest & Env. Department.

Sub: Diversion of 1253.225 ha of Forest Land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant and captive port by POSCO-india Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa.

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference to your letter No. 3465, dated 23.02.2011 in which the ST & SC Development Department was asked to give a factual report on the allegation of Shri Prashant Paikaray and also to give clarification on implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the Project area.

In continuation to the ST & SC Development Department letter No. 5046, dated 5.2.2011, I am to inform you that the issues relating to implementation of FRA 2006 have been examined in the Department. The constitution of the Forest Right Committees have been done in villages like Dhirkia, Gobindpur, Nuagaon and Polang and applications were invited as per the provision of the Sch. Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007. Subsequently, FRCs have also been constituted in Bhuyanpal and Noliasahi villages and applications were invited. However, no applications were received from these villages.

It is clear from the letter No.303, dated 4.2.2011 of Collector, Jagatsinghpur that all due procedures under the FRA, 2006 have been followed and none of the Other Dwellers satisfies the
condition of 3 generations (75 years) of continuous dependence on the
aforementioned forest area.

So far as the allegation received from Shri Prashant Paikaray is
concerned, the Collector, Jagatsinghpur was requested to send a factual
report and the report of the Collector with letter No 542, dated 1.3.2011 is
enclosed here with. The letter clarifies issues raised by Shri Paikaray.

Considering the earlier report of the Collector and the present
clarification submitted by Collector, Jagatsinghpur it is clear that none of
the OTFD satisfies the conditions given at Section 2(o) of the Forest Rights
Act 2006 which is "Other Traditional Forest Dwellers means any member or
community who has for at least 3 generations prior to the 13th day of
December, 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forest or
forest land for bonafide livelihood needs".

For the purpose of this clause "generation" means a period
comprising of 25 years.

Thus, the ST & SC Development Department would like to reiterate
its earlier stand that none of the OTFD in the aforementioned 1253.225 Ha.
of forest land satisfies the conditions laid down under section 2(o) of the
Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Commissioner-cum-Secretary
To,
The Commissioner-cum-Secretary
ST & SC Development Department,
Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Forwarding of complaint petition received by PCCF, Orissa regarding violation of Forest Right Act in POSCO Project area.

Ref: Letter No 8848/SSD dt. 22.02.2011

This has a reference to the letter addressed to the Honble Minister, Environment & Forest by one Shri Prasanta Palikray regarding violation of forest rights in POSCO Project area. In this connection, it is submitted that district administration, Jagatsinghpur has played a proactive role in implementing the provisions of Forest Right Act 2006. It has undertaken extensive measures to educate the public, P.R.I. members & Public Officers about individual rights and community right of Tribals & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) over the forest land under their occupation for their bonafide livelihood needs. Accordingly, Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) have been formed in all the villages of the District including the villages under POSCO project area. In respect of Dhinkia & Gobindapur village Palli Sabha were held on 23.03.2008 as per schedule and FRCs formed on the same day. Details of the provisions of the act & rules and benefits available for the Tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers were discussed in the meeting and explained to the people. The villagers were also explained the procedure for filing claims for individual and community rights with relevant documents, if any within a period of three months w.e.f 23.03.2008. No such claim pertaining to individual right or community right has been received from the people of Dhinkia village within the said period. It is worth mentioning that Sri Sitakumar Mohapatra who is an active member of the POSCO Pratibaddha Sangram Samiti and acting as the Secretary of the organization and at present the Sarapancha of Dhinkia G.P has signed the Palli Sabha and FRC proceedings of Dhinkia village on 23.03.2008. (Copy of the proceeding is enclosed as ANNEXURE-I). Similarly the Palli Sabha of Gobindapur village was held on 23.03.2008, the FRC was constituted and the participants were explained in detail about the FR act and rules and benefits available for the people under different provisions and the procedure for filing claims if any pertaining to individual and community rights within three months. (Copy of the proceeding is enclosed as ANNEXURE-II). Nobody in these villages filed any claim within the stipulated period, nor the Palli Sabha, by resolution, considered it necessary to extend such period of three months by acceding the reasons for not filing of any claim.
The allegation of Sri. Palikaray that Sri Sish Kumar Mohapatra, the Sarpanch of Dhinkia was not received any information, documents or records from the State Govt at any time to the Forest Right Act is not correct. Initially, he was the Secretary of the FRC of POSCO and has passed resolution inviting claims from interested persons. As the people of the project area are fully convinced that none of them qualifies to constitute OTFD, in the fact that there was no forest in the project area and the land is covered by casuarina only after 1971 cyclone for protection of sea coast. The land within the project area is forest land, but was waste land which has been declared by State Govt. as forest only on 4th October, 1991 Under Section 29 of Indian Forest Act.

Regarding the rights of betel vines and cashew trees for seasonal collection of leaf or not constitute community claims. Cashew and betel vines being non-forest activities, no such crop, if any, for less than 70 years should not qualify to be treated as forest. Any non-filling of claims within the stipulated period and filing of the claims at a later date with an ulterior motive is not tenable in law should not be encouraged. If we speak the truth, there is nothing new in the allegations made by Sri and the Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest. The aforesaid allegations have been repeated for years at different times on behalf of POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti and resolution thereof has been clearly explained to the satisfaction of everybody.

Regarding the allegation by Sri. Palikaray that Palli Sabha of Dhinkia and Gobindapur resolutions on February 6th and 6th of 2010 asserting their eligibility under Forest Right Act and rejecting consent to proposed diversion of forest land for project. It is submitted that no resolution has been made in the Palli Sabha in the artificial members, nor any such resolution have been handed over to any authority. I have only brought to the notice of the Sub-Collector, Jagatsingpur at Dhinkia village on April 3rd, 2010 (the date on which the discussion held with the Forest Right Act committee members by Sri Sish Kumar Mohapatra, Sarpanch of Dhinkia G.P who handed over the English translation copy of the mentioned Palli Sabha to him. The Palli Sabha Resolution of Dhinkia and Gobindapur have been passed on 05.02.2010 and 06.02.2010 respectively are not passed in a public meeting at later stage with ulterior motive to create confusion in the process of land acquisition by Sri Sish Kumar Mohapatra, the Sarpanch, a strong supporter of POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti by an official position knowing very well that no person in the POSCO project area has OTFD. On thorough search from the District Office, Block office and Gram Sabha records it is ascertained that these resolution were never received at any stage of such resolution has been sent to District Office or Block Office nor it is with the G.P Office with the Executive Officer who is the Secretary of the Gram Sabha (Voluntary) of the Forest Right Rules 2007 and custodian of official records including the copy of Palli Sabha resolutions.
Moreover, the Forest Rights Act does not provide any such mandatory provision for completion of the process before diversion of any forest land or consent of Gram Sabha. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 also does not provide for mandatory completion of the process of FC Act, before diversion of forest land. The FC Act guidelines only provides for submission of "Gram Sabha Resolution" along with the forest diversion proposal with many exceptional clauses. Even the PESA Act lays down that "the Gram Sabha or the Panchayat Samiti at the appropriate level shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the scheduled areas for development projects and before resettling or rehabilitating persons affected by such projects in the scheduled area. The actual planning and implementation of the project in the scheduled areas shall be coordinated at the State level". Thus it may be observed that in case of development project the PESA Act prescribes for prior consultation with Gram Sabha before making land acquisition in the scheduled areas only. In this background, obtaining the consent of Gram Sabha for the proposed diversion of forest land outside scheduled areas does not appear to have any legal basis.

Yours faithfully,

<Signature>

Collector & District Magistrate
Jagatsinghpur

2011
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নাগ্রাম্য কর্মকর্তার প্রতি শুভেচ্ছা জানান।

নাম: ওয়াইল্ড

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রাশিয়া শাসনের সময় সম্পূর্ণ কাজ করা আছে।
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Dated Bhubaneswar the 31st March, 2011

Sarangi, IAS
Secretary to Govt.

Memorandum to Government,
SC Department.

Nisha of Forest Land for establishment of Integrated Steel plant by POSCO-India Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa.

dated 22.03.2011 of Forest & Environment Department.

To the aforementioned, we are directed to inform you that the development Department, looking into implementation of FRA, 2006 vide Letter No. 726/1/15/2011-SC, dated 4.02.2011, the Collector’s report dated 14.02.2011 had indicated that all due formal procedures under FRA, 2006 whereas applications under FRA were received and settled in the proposed project area including the villages which the proposed project area including the villages which were received from the proposed project area.

Petition filed by Smt. Kusumabala Patnaik suggested that the Government convene Gram Sabha on 21.02.2011 and the Collector, Jagatsinghpur was requested to cause an enquiry. On enquiry, the Collector, Jagatsinghpur has informed that the Petition filed by Shri. Mahapatra, had been referred to the District Administration for further action. Shri. Mahapatra, the activist protesting against the proposed project, submitted a memorial of notice as well as a copy of Gram Sabha Resolution which involved the Secretary of Gram Panchayat as required by Panchayat Rule 36(X) & the Clause 11(6) of the Scheduled Forest Dwellers (Resettlement & Rehabilitation) Rules 2007. The Collector, Jagatsinghpur has also been referred for reference.

Of some people have recognized as Other Traditional Forest Rights (other than FRA) has already been notified by letter No. 5048/SSD, dated 25.02.2011.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Commissioner-cum-Secretary
ANNEX-II
To:
Shri Jairam Ramesh
Minister of State (I/C) for Environment and Forests
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex
New Delhi 110 003

Sub: Expected assurance from Orissa government related to POSCO project; facts already on record with your Ministry demonstrate that any such assurance will be false

April 11, 2011

Dear Sir,

We are the main organisation of the people who will be affected by the POSCO project’s proposed steel plant in Jagatsinghpur District of Orissa. Since the Ministry’s decision of January 31, 2011 in favour of the project, we have been forwarding documents, complaints and gram sabha resolutions from the area to the Ministry in order to demonstrate the utter illegality of any "assurance" from the Orissa government on the lines that the Ministry has requested.

As recent press reports indicate that such an assurance is expected this week, we wish to reiterate the submissions made to your Ministry recently:

1. Representation of the POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti dated 03.02.2011, in which we have listed the official documentary evidence that proves that we are indeed other traditional forest dwellers and which is already on record with the Ministry as a result of the POSCO Enquiry Committee.

2. Complaint of the Forest Rights Committees of Dhinkia and Gobindpur villages dated February 11th, 2011, accompanied with sworn affidavits of the sarpanch of Dhinkia and the Panchayat Samiti member from Gadkujang village, and copies of resolutions passed by Dhinkia and Gobindpur gram sabhas in February 2010. The affidavits and complaints clearly state that no records, forms or materials were provided to anyone in these villages relating to the Forest Rights Act, and further state that the Committees (which are the inquiry bodies under the Forest Rights Rules) hold that the people of the area are indeed other traditional forest dwellers and that their claims for community rights are pending before the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.

3. Gram sabha resolutions of the villages of Dhinkia and Gobindpur passed on February 21st and 23rd, 2011, respectively, which state that the people of the area are eligible as other traditional forest dwellers, that they enjoy both individual and community rights under the Forest Rights Act, and that they reject consent to the proposed diversion for the POSCO project. The palli sabhas also exercised their power under Rule 11 of the Forest Rights Rules to extend the deadline for receipt of claims. These resolutions complied with all technical requirements and are valid as palli sabha resolutions (the palli sabha being the gram sabha for the purposes of the Forest Rights Act in Orissa). These were forwarded to you on March 10th. These resolutions are also evidence under the Ministry’s order of July 30th 2009 and show that that order was never complied with, in contravention of the Ministry’s condition imposed on the final clearance of December 29, 2009.

We further wish to inform you that, without any assistance or statutorily required implementation steps
from the State government, and despite the intense police presence and constant threat of violence, the people of the area and in particular of Dhinkia and Gobindapur villages have been completing the process of filling out claim forms and verifying rights claims and that several hundred such claims are expected to be approved by the respective pali sabhas within the next fifteen days. It is also expected that these pali sabhas will be issuing notice under section 8 of the Forest Rights Act to the State government for its blatantly false statements over the past year, which constitute criminal offences under section 7 of the Act and sections 192 and 219 of the IPC.

Finally, Sir, we wish to note that as per recent press reports the Orissa government intends to argue that we cannot be other traditional forest dwellers as the land was not notified as forest land until 1961. This is a malicious and absurd distortion of law and has already been dealt with by the POSCO Enquiry Committee in depth. The fact is - as demonstrated by the Orissa government's own maps - that the area was forest as per section 2(d) of the Forest Rights Act in 1930, and this is the relevant definition.

In light of the above we wish to reiterate that any assurance from the Orissa government has been shown to be both false and illegal and that the evidence to demonstrate this is on record with the Ministry. We call upon the Ministry to reject any such false assurance.

Sincerely,

(Prashant Paikray)
Spokesperson
ANNEXURE-III

- Letter of state government dated April 29th, 2011
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 10F (Cons) – 561/2011(pt)- 2722*** F&E. Dated : 29-4-11

From: B.P. Singh, IFS
   Special Secretary to Government

To

   The Private Secretary to Hon’ble Minister of State (Ind. Charge)
   Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India,
   Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road,
   New Delhi -110003

Sub: Diversion of 1253.225 Ha. of forest land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant & Captive Port by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa

Sir,

   I am directed to invite your kind attention to the D.O. letter No. 1-50MOS(I/C)E&F dt. 11.4.2011 of Hon’ble Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India addressed to the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Orissa and his subsequent order dt. 14.4.2011 in the subject matter and to say that detailed factual report as sought for by the Hon’ble Minister has been furnished to the Government of India, MOEF vide Forest & Environment Department, Government of Orissa letter No. 7651/F&E dt. 29.4.2011.

   A copy of the above mentioned letter along with all its enclosures is appended herewith with the request to kindly place the same before the Hon’ble Minister for his kind consideration.

Yours faithfully

Special Secretary to Government

[Signature]

29.04.11
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 10F (Cons) – 561/2011(pt)\2\3 7\6\5\1 /F&E. Dated: 29-4-11

From: B.P. Singh, IFS
      Special Secretary to Government

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests,
Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forest,
(F.C. Division), Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi -110003

Sub: Diversion of 1253.225 Ha. of forest land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant & Captive Port by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa

Sir,

I am directed to say that the State Government vide their letter No. 6356/F&E Dt. 8.4.2011 and No. 6489 dt. 15.4.2011 have already furnished the desired information to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India as sought for by the Hon’ble Union Minister, Environment & Forests vide his order dt. 31.1.2011, e-mailed letter to Hon’ble Chief Minister dt.12.3.2011 and MoEF communication dt.10.2.2011.

Meanwhile the Hon’ble Union Minister forwarded a copy of representation dt.11.4.2011 of the POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti vide his letter dt. 11.4.2011 inviting attention of the State Government on the issues raised by the Samiti. Further, the Hon’ble Union Minister vide his order dt. 14.4.2011, had asked the State Government to get the two resolutions said to be passed by gram sabhas of Dhinkia and Gobindapur on 21.2.2011 and 23.2.2011 disposed along with completion of the process of recognition and verification procedure for all the villages from where forest land is to be transferred for non-forestry purposes for the POSCO project for taking a final decision on forest clearance to the project.

The ST&SC Development Department being the Nodal department for implementation of the Forest Rights Act, were requested for compliance as sought for by the Hon’ble Union Minister. Based on the field verification done by the Committee headed by Sub-Collector, Jagatsinghpur and observation of the Collector, Jagatsinghpur, it has been reported by the ST&SC Development Department vide their letter No. 13745 dt. 28.4.2011(copy enclosed) that the claim of Shri Sisir Mohapatra, Sarpanch, Dhinkia G.P. regarding the resolutions of the Pallisabha dt. 21.2.2011 and 23.2.2011 of Dhinkia and Gobindpur is fraudulent as the said meetings were convened in gross contravention of relevant provisions of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964 & Forest Rights Rules, 2007. The Committee have further reported that
many people of these two villages were not aware of convening of said Gram sabhas and the
purported resolutions have been signed by a miniscule population.

Further the ST & SC Development Department have reiterated that all requirements
under the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers(Recognition of Forest Rights)
Act, 2006 like constitution of Forest Rights Committees, invitation of claims etc. have been done
in the concerned villages and the process of implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 has been
completed in POSCO Project area. The Nodal department have further clarified that there are no
tribal within the project area and no other persons has established his/her claim regarding
residing in the forest area for 75 years prior to 13.12.2005 or having credible dependence on the
forest land for bonafide livelihood needs for 75 years.

In view of the factual position, the Government of India, MoEF may allow diversion of
1253.225ha. of forest land for establishment of the steel plant.

Yours faithfully,

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 7652 /F&E Dt. 29-4-11
Copy with copy of the enclosures forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), A/3,
Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 7653 /F&E Dt. 29-4-11
Copy forwarded to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST & SC Development Department for
information with reference to his letter No. 13745 dt. 28.4.2011.

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 7654 /F&E Dt. 29-4-11
Copy forwarded to the Pr. CCF, Orissa/Pr. CCF(WL)&CWLW, Orissa for information and
necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 7655 /F&E Dt. 29-4-11
Copy forwarded to the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, IDCO, Bhubaneswar for information
and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 7656 /F&E Dt. 29-4-11
Copy forwarded to the RDC, Central Division, Cuttack/Collector, Jagatsinghpur/RCCF,
Bhubaneswar/Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar(WL)Division for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 7657 /F&E Dt. 29-4-11
Copy forwarded to the Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of Orissa, Orissa Bhawan,
4, Bardoloi Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021 for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

************
No. 12345 (SSD., Dated Bhubaneswar the, 28-04-2011)

Shri Santosh Sarangi, IAS
Commissioner-cum-Secretary

To
The Principal Secretary,
Forest & Environment Department.

Sub:- Diversion of 1253.225 Ha. Of forest land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant & Captive Port by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Odisha.

Sir,

With reference to Forest & Environment Department letter No.6814/F&E, dated 19.4.2011 as well as the orders of Hon’ble Union Minister dated 14.4.2011 the Collector, Jagatsinghpur had been requested to furnish a factual report. The Collector, Jagatsinghpur has furnished a factual report from which following facts emerge.

1. The claim of Shri Sisir Mohapatra, Sarpanch, Dhinkia regarding Palisabha Resolution is a fraudulent claim in view of the fact that the purported Palisabhas have been convened in gross contravention of the provision of Odisha Gram Panchayat Act 1964. Similarly, the convening of Gramasabha under The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007 has also been done without involving the Secretary of the Grampanchayat who is supposed to act as Secretary of the Gramsabha.

2. The field verification done by the Committee headed by the Sub-Collector, Jagatsinghpur indicates that many people in the village were not aware of convening of said Gramasabha and the purported resolutions have been signed by a miniscule population.

3. For misutilisation official position and fraudulent acts on the part of Mr. Sishir Mohapatra, the Committee have recommended action for violation of provisions of Odisha Gram Panchayat Act.
4. Regarding implementation of Forest Rights Act it has been made clear earlier that all requirements under the Scheduled Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 like constitution of FRC, invitation of claims etc. have been done for the concerned villages. The District Administration have reassured that the process of implementation of Forest Right Act 2006 has been completed in POSCO Project area. There are no Tribals within the project area and no other person has established his/her claim regarding residing in the forest area for 75 years prior to 13.12.2005 or having credible dependence on the forest land for bonafide livelihood needs for 75 years. Keeping this in view necessary compliance to Ministry of Forest & Environment may kindly be communicated.

The copy of the report received from Collector, Jagatsinghpur along with the enclosures is also attached.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

28.4.2011

Commissioner-cum-Secretary
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
JAGATSINGHPUR

No. 9160/ D. 27/4/2011

To
The Commissioner-cum-Secretary
ST & SC Development Department
Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Diversion of 1253.225hec. of Forest Land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant for captive port by POSCO India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa.

Ref: Letter No.12818/SSD dt.21.04.2011 of Director, ST/SC-cum-Additional Secretary to Government

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the letter on the subject cited above I am to say that vide letter No.772 dated 27.03.2011 the authenticity of the twin resolutions purportedly passed by the Palli Sabha of Dhinkia village on 21.02.2011 and that of Govindpur village on 23.02.2011 extending the period of filing of individual and Community claims under F.R. Act for another three months and asserting dependence of people on the forest land for three generations were enquired into in detail. In the letter under reference two issues have cropped-up – regarding ignoring of Palli Sabha resolution of two villages and not allowing them to be subjected to a due process of law as enshrined in the Forest Right Act, 2006. The findings are as follows:

1. In order to examine the veracity of the Palli Sabha resolutions dated 21.02.2011 and 23.02.2011 a committee comprising of District Panchayat Officer, Jagatsinghpur, Block Development Officer, Erasama under the Chairmanship of the Sub-Collector, Jagatsinghpur was constituted. In their report dated 25.04.2011 they have come to the finding that the aforesaid two resolutions have not been passed in due process of law and hence not valid resolutions. The claim of Shri Sishir Mohapatra, Sarpanch Dhinkia that the assertions are Palli Sabha resolutions is a fraudulent one. (The report dated 25.04.2011 of the committee is enclosed for ready reference). The above conclusion is based on the following grounds:
2.1 For proper appreciation of the issues involved in this case it is necessary to examine the different provisions of Orissa Grama Panchayat Act 1964 and rules made thereunder governing constitution and convening of Palli Sabha and accordingly the relevant provisions of the Act and the Rules are extracted hereinafter in extenso.

2.2 Sec 6 of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act 1964 deals in detail with Palli Sabha and its functions. The procedure for convening and functioning of Palli Sabha have been enumerated from U/R 22 to Rule 26.

Section 6 provides inter alia that –

(1) "For every village within the Grama, there shall be constituted by the State Government a Palli Sabha,..."

(2) "Each Palli Sabha shall consist of all persons registered by virtue of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 in so much of the electoral roll for any Assembly Constituency for the time being in force,...".

(3) The Palli Sabha shall meet annually in February every year and may also meet at other times in the manner prescribed.

(4) The person representing the Palli Sabha area in the Grama Panchayat ..... shall preside over the meeting of the Palli Sabha and in the absence of all such persons at the meeting at the appointed time, those present at the meeting may elect one from amongst themselves to preside over the meeting.

(5) The members present at any meeting of the Palli Sabha shall form the quorum for such meeting and the proceedings of the meeting of the Palli Sabha shall be recorded and authenticated by its President.

The relevant procedures of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Rules 1968 are given below:-

Rule 20 Meetings of Palli Sabha – The meetings of Palli Sabha shall be held at such public place within the Palli Sabha area as may be
determined by its representatives in the Grama Panchayat or by the Grama Panchayat or by the person requisitioning the meeting, as the case may be.

Rule 21.  
(a) The Grama Panchayat shall arrange for convening the meeting of Palli Sabha which shall meet in February every year and the date and time for holding such meeting be fixed by it six months in advance.

(b) If the Grama Panchayat requires the Palli Sabha to hold an extraordinary meeting either of its own or on a requisition in writing of not less than one fifth of the members of Palli Sabha, the date, time, Place and subject for discussion in such meeting shall be fixed by the Grama Panchayat at least fifteen day's in advance.

(c) The meeting shall be held in a public place within the Palli Sabha area to be decided by the Grama Panchayat and wide Publication for the date, time and place at the meeting along with subject for discussion shall be given by beat of drum within the Palli Sabha area.

(d) The Grama Panchayat in a meeting shall fix the President of the Palli Sabha as required under Sub-section (4) of Section 6 of the Act.

Rule 22. Where the meeting is requisitioned by not less than one fifth of the members of the Palli Sabha, the requisition shall be addressed to the Sarpanch thirty days in advance and it shall state the place, date and time of the meeting......

Rule 23. At least 15 clear days notice of the meeting of a Palli Sabha shall be given in the manner prescribed in Rule 7.

Rule 24. All questions which may come before the meeting of the Palli Sabha be decided by a majority of votes......

Xx xxxx xx xx xx xx xxx
Rule 26. The proceeding of the Palli Sabha shall be recorded in a book to be kept for the purpose in Oriya and shall be signed by the President of the meeting and such book shall be open to the general public for inspection.

The “Gram Panchayat” means the Executive Committee of the Grama Sashana established u/s 7. (Section 2(J)).

A bare reading of the aforesaid provisions of law makes it crystal clear that the Grama Panchayat which is the Executive Committee of the Grama Sashana is the competent authority under law to convene an extra ordinary meeting of the Palli Sabha and fix the date, time and place of such meeting in the prescribed manner. Even the duty of the Grama Panchayat is to decide as to who would preside over such meeting. The proceeding of the meeting shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept open for inspection of the general public. In the absence of the above strict requirements under the OGP Act and Rules, any minutes of any meeting cannot be regarded as Palli Sabha resolution.

2.3 In the instant case, the committee has reported with reference to available records that Shri Sishira Mahapatra, the Sarapanch, Dhinkia G.P. who happens to be the Secretary of POSCO Pratirodoh Sangram Samiti has by misutilizing his official position, convened two separate meetings in the villages Govindpur and Dhinkia on 23.02.2011 and 21.02.2011 respectively whereas the date for regular Palli Sabha for the village Dhinkia was fixed in the G.P. meeting dated 26.01.2011 (under his own Chairmanship) to be held on 26.02.2011 and that of Govindpur was fixed to be held on 22.02.2011. The so-called resolutions passed in the two meetings are without the authority of Grama Panchayat. The regular Palli Sabha resolutions in respect of the aforesaid two villages are available in a book recorded by the G.P. Secretary and signed by the Sarapanch and are open for public inspection. But in the “resolutions” in question, the Sarapanch has served the notice himself and recorded the proceeding himself in violation of Rule 5 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Rules, 1968 which provides that the Secretary after obtaining
approval of the Sarapanch shall issue notice of the meeting and Rule 11 (6) of the Forest Right Rules 2008 which provided that Secretary of the G.P. shall act as the Secretary of Gram Sabha. The two "resolutions" purported to have been passed by the Palli Sabha are not available in the book and are therefore fake ones.

2.4 The Committee headed by the Sub-Collector, Jagatsinghpur has further reported that during their verification some of the villagers gave in writing that neither any notice for holding of Palli Sabha on 21.2.2011 and 23.2.2011 in the village Dhinkia and Gobindpur respectively was ever served nor any valid Palli Sabha meeting was held. They have further alleged that the Sarpanch who is leading the POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti has obtained the signature of a handful of his supporters and made a representation falsely claiming it to be a Palli Sabha resolution. The Committee has further pointed out that out of a total of 3445 voters of Dhinkia only 69 persons have allegedly signed the so called resolution. Similarly out of 1907 voters of Gobindpur only 64 persons have allegedly signed the resolution. This clearly shows that the "resolutions" are invalid.

2.5 In this connection it is submitted that similar type of "resolutions" were placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee on behalf of the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti in order to stall the process of diversion of forest land for POSCO project. In spite of that, the MoE&F cleared the proposal on conditions of categorical assurance from the Government of Orissa to the effect that none of the people claiming to be dependent on or cultivating land in the POSCO project area fulfils at least one of the three conditions essential to qualify as other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs). There is nothing new in the alleged Palli Sabha Resolutions dated 21.02.2011 and 23.02.2011 in village Dhinkia and Govindpur respectively. It is but a part of well-thought-out attempt to mislead everyone about local sentiment and give it an anti POSCO colour. The so-called "resolutions" are the views of Shri Sishira Mohapatra and his supporters and not of the Palli Sabha.

2.6 It is an established principle of law that any action taken by any authority without jurisdiction is nullity in the eyes of law. It is nonest, a coram
non judice. It is, therefore, concluded that the Palli Sabha resolutions dated 23.02.2011 and 21.02.2011 are not valid documents in terms of mandatory provisions of law under the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964 and Forest Rights Act, 2006. Such resolutions can neither be relied on nor be acted upon.

3. For such fraudulent acts by Shri Sishira Mohapatra, the Committee has recommended action against him under the OGP Act which is under process.

4.1 Regarding implementation of Forest Right Act 2006 it is submitted that the schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste Development Department is the Nodal Department for implementation of Forest Right Act in Orissa and the said Department issued guideline vide order No. 4694/SSD, dated 01.02.2008 for constitution of DLC/SDLC/FRC etc. Accordingly the Panchayati Raj Department issued necessary instruction for holding of Palli Sabha and constitution of F.R.C. in all the villages of the state on 23.03.2008. Accordingly district administration, Jagatsinghpur has played a proactive role in implementing the provisions of Forest Right Act, 2006. It has undertaken extensive measures to educate the public, P.R.I. members & Public Officers about individual rights and community right of Tribals & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) over the forest land under their occupation for their bonafide livelihood needs through distribution of leaflets and posters and organisation of seminars and awareness camps at the district, block, village and hamlet level. Forest Right Committees (FRC) in respect of 1217 villages of Jagatsinghpur District have been formed. Palli Sabha at the habitat levels has been convened by the respective FRCs and the participants have been explained in detail about their rights on the forest land. Only 49 applications from the Tribals residing in the Protected Forest and cultivating forest land in the Ramatara hamlet of Padmapur village under the same Erasama Block where the POSCO project is coming up were received by the Forest Right Committee (FRC) of the hamlet concerned. Finally, 47 applications were approved by the District Level Committee (DLC) and the applicants have given Certificate of Title in respect of the land under their occupation with effect from 05.12.2009. Besides, the above no other application was received
from any tribal as no tribal people are residing or cultivating forest land anywhere in the district.

4.2 So far as implementation of Forest Rights Act in the villages of POSCO Project area is concerned it is mentioned that the project area comprises of seven villages namely, Dhinkia, Govindpur of Dhinkia G.P., Nuagaon of Nuagaon G.P., Polanga, Bhuyanpal, Bayanalakandha and Noliasahi of Gadakujanga G.P. where villages Bayanalakandha is uninhabited. The project area also includes a part of the Reserve Forest area of village Jatadhar. As such Palli Sabha in six villages was held on 23.03.2008 and F.R.C. was constituted in respect of four villages namely Nuagaon, Dhinkia, Govindpur and Polanga. The Palli Sabha of Bhuyanpal and Noliasahi by resolution refused to constitute F.R.C. for lack of Tribal and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers in their village. Subsequently, F.R.C. in the above two villages were constituted on 17.01.2009 and 19.01.2009 as per instruction of Govt. Even the F.R.C. of Dhinkia was formed on 23.03.2008, the villagers were explained the procedure for filing claims for individual and community rights with relevant documents, if any, within a period of three months with effect from 23.03.2008. No such claim pertaining to individual right or community right was received from the people of Dhinkia and Govindpur village within the said period. The F.R.C. of Govindpur was formed in the same manner. It is worth mentioning that Shri Sishir Mohapatra who is the Secretary of the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti and at present the Sarapancha of Dhinkia G.P. was the Secretary of the FRC of Dhinkia village and has passed resolutions inviting claims from interested persons. As the people of POSCO project area are fully convinced that none of them qualifies to constitute O.T.F.D. they have not filed any claim within the stipulated period, nor the Gram Sabha, by resolution, considered it necessary to extend such period of three months by recording the reasons for not filing of any claim. No claim having been filed within the stipulated period of three months the process of implementation of F.R.A. attained its finality. Extending the period of filing of claims after a long lapse of three years is nothing but a part of nefarious design on the part of the POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti to create confusion and stall acquisition of land for POSCO Project.
4.3 The POSCO Project area formed a part of erstwhile Burdhaman Raj Estate which vested in the Government vide Revenue Department Notification No. 6934-EA-29/52R dated 27th November 1952. On issuance of a notification under Section 3(1) of the Act, the pre-existing rights ceased to exist and new rights were created under the Act. The Ex-intermediary filed Ekapadia (Rent Roll) against all the lands in respect of which he had created tenancy right in order to allow them to continue as tenants under the State. The names of these people got enrolled in the “Tenant’s Ledger” of the village and they started paying rent to the Government as a token of possession of such land. The date of filing of the claim has been extended from time to time till 1983. By this process all the homestead, agricultural and horticultural lands were settled and no one was left out without his claim being settled. Therefore, any record that might be produced now for the land that has not been settled in favour of any claimant, lacks credibility. Such records must have been subsequent creations, for had they such records at the time of Estates abolition they would have got their rights settled then.

4.4 By operation of Section 5(a) of the O.E.A. Act, the entire estate including all communal lands non-raiyati lands, waste lands, trees, orchards, pasture lands, forests, mines and minerals etc. absolutely vested in the State Government free from all encumbrances.

4.5 It is pertinent to mention here that the proposed POSCO project requires Ac.4004.24 of land stretching over 8 villages namely Dhinkia, Govindpur, Nuagaon, Noliasahi, Polanga, Bayanalkandha, Bhuyanpal & Jatadhar. While Bhuyanpal & Jatadhar formed a part of un-surveyed forest blocks, there was no traditional forest in the remaining 6 villages. For some time, after vesting, all forest of Kujang area remained under management of Tahasildar, Kujang. Subsequently, such management was transferred to Forest Department with effect from 15th Nov,1957 and the Tahasildar Kujanga transferred, inter alia, the management of all the unsurveyed forest blocks thirty in number which he got from the Burdhaman Raj Estate to the D.F.O., Athagarh vide letter No. 57 dated 23.11.1957. None of
the villages in Nuagaon & Dhinkia G.Ps. was an un-surveyed forest block and none of them was transferred to the DFO, Athagarh for management of any forest land therein.

4.6 On 4th October, 1961, the Government of Orissa in Development (Forest) Department published a Notification u/s 29 of the Indian Forest Act 1927 declaring the forest lands and waste lands of Kujang forest areas as protected forest. No land of Nuagaon and Dhinkia G.Ps. was covered under such notification.

4.7 Act 1 of 48 imposed restriction on alienation of communal and forest land by the ex-intermediates without permission of the Collector. In the year 1950 Shri M.N. Guha, the Collector, Cuttack permitted the Maharaj of Burdhaman to lease out thousands of acres of forest land for agricultural purpose. The Collector, granted such a permission on receipt of an enquiry report from the Chief Conservator of Forest, Orissa, Cuttack. Surprisingly in his report dated 7th January, 1950 the Chief Conservator of Forest has not mentioned about the forest of Nuagaon and Dhinkia though he has devoted a chapter on encroachment of forest land in the village Bhuyanpal. It is, therefore, not justified to say that there were any traditional forest dwellers dependant on such forest for their bonafide livelihood needs. Hence there was no traditional forest dweller linked to the above area.

4.8 A devastating cyclone ravaged the coastal Orissa in 1971 in which a large number of people perished in the Rajnagar Block and thousands of people were rendered homeless in Kujanga and Erasama Blocks. As a result the Government of Orissa decided to undertake large scale plantation along the sea coast in order to create a barrier against the sea surge and saline water. It is needless to say that there are a series of sand dunes along coast of the Bay of Bengal near the villages Nuagaon, Dhinkia and Govindpur created by the forces of nature. That area has been the best place for casuarinas plantation. These plants are utilised only for fire-wood.

4.9 Thus it is conclusively established that the process of implementation of Forest Right Act 2006 has been completed in POSCO Project area. There
are no Tribals in project area. There are also no other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have primarily resided in the said forest area for 75 years prior to 13.12.2005 or have credible dependence on the forest land for their bonafide livelihood needs for 75 years.

It is therefore requested that the Ministry of Environment and Forest may kindly be moved for necessary clearance for transfer of Forest land for non forest purpose for construction of an integrated Steel Plant by POSCO.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

27.4.11

Collector & District Magistrate
Jagatsinghpur.

Members of the Committee

a) Sub-Collector, Jagatsinghpur .................. Chairman
b) Dist.Panchayat Officer, Jagatsinghpur .......... Convener
c) B.D.O., Erasama .................. Member

Collector, Jagatsinghpur vide order No 908 /Dt.21.4.2011 has directed to inquiry into the veracity of twin Palli Sabha resolution Dt-21.02.2011 & 23.02.2011 said to have been passed by the Pall Sabha of Dhinkia & Gobindpur village respectively extending the period for filling of applications for individual rights & community rights under Forest Right Act-2006 & Rule 2007 for a period of 3 months & refusing grant of consent for diversion of forest land for non forest purpose for construction of a Steel Plant and Captive port by POSCO. Accordingly the Committee verified the Palli Sabha Proceeding Book and Panchayat Notice Book available in Dhinkia G.P. Office. The Committee also examined the Secretary of Dhinkia G.P.

As per Rule 20 (a) of Orissa Gram Panchayat Rules 1968 “Gram Panchayat alone is competent to convene Palli Sabha. On perusal of the Resolution Book of Dhinkia GP, it is revealed that the GP has not at all decided the next date of Palli Sabha either in Dhinkia village or in Gobindpur village for taking decision on implementation of Forest Right Act, Rather Dhinkia GP has resolved vide Resolution Proposal No 23 (4 ) dated 26.01.2011 to convene the next usual Palli Sabha meeting under OGP Act for villages Dhinkia & Gobindpur as given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>No. &amp; Date of issue of Notice</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gobindpur</td>
<td>15/Dt.05.02.2011</td>
<td>22.02.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dhinkia</td>
<td>20/Dt.10.02.2011</td>
<td>26.02.2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accordingly the Palli Sabha Meetings were held in the above said two villages on scheduled dates fixed by the GP. The Panchayat Executive Officer in the capacity of Secretary of Dhinkia GP was present and he has recorded the proceedings of above two Palli Sabha meetings. The copy of resolution of Palli Sabha meetings held in the village Dhinkia & Gobindpur has been sent to different quarters under signature of Sarpanch, Dhinkia GP vide Memo No.36/Dt.11.3.2011 & Memo No.36/Dt.11.3.2011 respectively.

Further on verification of Palli Sabha Resolutions of above two villages held on 22.2.2011 & 26.2.2011, there was no discussion on Forest Right Act & Rules.

On verification of the resolutions dt-21.02.2011 & 23.02.2011 allegedly passed by the Palli Sabha of Dhinkia & Gobindpur villages respectively the copy of which has been supplied by the Collector, Jagatsinghpur for verification of their authenticity, it is transpired that the aforesaid resolutions are not available in Black & white in the Pallisabha proceeding book in respect of village Dhinkia & Gobindpur. From verification of Notice Book of Dhinkia GP, it was found that no notice was issued by the GP fixing dates for holding Pallisabha on 21.2.2011 & 23.2.2011 of Gobindpur & Dhinkia village respectively.

On examination the Secretary stated that, Sarpanch had issued a letter in his individual capacity to attend the meeting on 21.2.2011 at Dhinkia & on 23.2.2011 at Gobindpur village. As the meeting was held by the Sarpanch non officially he declined to participate. The copies of the same are enclosed herewith for reference.

At the time of inquiry, some of the villagers of Dhinkia & Gobindpur met us in person and submitted separately in writing that the Sarapanch Dhinkia, has misused his official position and convened two meetings in the village Dhinkia & Govindpur with a handful of supporters of POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti and passed resolutions and obtained signature of others thereon without the sanction of the Gram Panchayat and without service of prior notice by beat of drum in the village. There was no quorum in the meeting and no support of a majority of villagers for the meeting. Their representation dt.24.04.2011 is enclosed for reference.

Having heard the Secretary of Dhinkia G.P. and verified evidence on record, the committee is of the opinion that when the dates for annual Pallisabha in respect
of the village Gobindpur & Dhinkia were fixed months ahead there was no need to convene another Pallisabha in haste & ill-conceived manner by the Sarpanch, Dhinkia G.P. Had there been any claim for individual and community Rights under Forest Right Act it could have been discussed in the Pallisabha convened by the GP. There is no doubt that the Pallisabha is free to meet at other times as provided u/s 6(3) of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act 1964. However it is under obligation to meet according to the procedure prescribed under law & not in accordance with the whim & Caprices of a person or group of persons. As the thing of the scheme stands today, the authority to convene an extraordinary Pallisabha vests with “Gram Panchayat”, an Executive Committee of the Gram Sasan established under Section 7. The Gram Panchayat alone and not the Sarpanch is competent to convene the meeting, fixed the date, time & place for the meeting and determine who will preside over the meeting. The Committee verified the Voters List of the year 2009 of the village Dhinkia and Govindipur. The total voters of village Dhinkia is 3445 and that of Govindipur is 1907. The applicants are correct. Only 64 number of people of Gobindipur & 69 number of people of Dhinkia have signed the resolutions in question. In the instant case, the Sarpanch has over stepped the jurisdiction vested in him and mis-utilised his official position to serve the interest of “POSCO Pratirodha Sangram Samiti” which is bent upon not to allow POSCO to take off.

Hence the Committee is of unanimous opinion that the resolutions passed in Pallisabha on 21.2.2011 & 23.2.2011 are not legal and therefore not a valid resolution. The committee recommends stringent action against the Sarpanch Dhinkia for misuse of his official position for sectarian ends.

BDO, Erasama

DPO, Jagatsinghpur

Sub-Collector, Jagatsinghpur
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, ERASAMA

No. 5/02

Date 2.6.2011

To

THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
JAGAT SINGHIPUR

Sub: Submission of report regarding convening of village panchayat by Sarpanch, Dhinkia GP

Sir,

In inviting a kind reference to the subject cited above, I am to draw your kind attention, that as per OGP Act 1964, Section 6, Panchayat was convened in the following dates in Dhinkia GP:

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<th>S.I.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>Date of Panchayat</th>
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<td>Goundpur</td>
<td>22.02.2011</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Triochanpur</td>
<td>25.02.2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Dhinkia</td>
<td>26.02.2011</td>
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</table>

Thereupon, notice was duly publicised in the above village. But, all of a sudden, Sarpanch Dhinkia GP, convened Panchayat on 21.02.2011 in Dhinkia village and on 24.02.2011 in Goundpur village on forest right without any official communication or official representative. So the above Panchayat is convened deviating OGP Act & CGP rules in similar manner. Deviating OGP Act & Rules, holding of Panchayat has no meaning at all.

The report of Executive Officer of Dhinkia GP communicated vide letter no. 24 dt. 14.02.2011, is enclosed herewith for kind information & necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

[Sign]

Block Development Officer
Erasama
ပေါ်တော်လာ - ကြည့်စုံပါက နောက်ပိုမို ကြည့်ရှုပါမည်။

1. အားလုံးကို စားရည်ပြီး ထိုကြက်ကလေးများကို စိတ်ကြိုက်ပါ။
2. စိတ်ကြိုက်မှုကို သည့် ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှ နိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့၏ အကြောင်းပြောက်ချက်များနှင့် ကြိုးစားပါ။
3. ပြောက်ချက်များကို စားရည်ပြီး နိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့၏ အကြောင်းပြောက်ချက်များနှင့် ကြိုးစားပါ။

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পাতাটি মাঝে থেকে কাঠামোর খোলায় থাকে যা কিছুটা রূপবান হয়ে থাকে। আমার মনে হয়, এটি একটি মানুষের কাঠামো হতে পারে। তবে সেটি কীভাবে কাজ করে তা আমি জানি না।

দীর্ঘ সময়ের পর আমি পাতাটি তুলে নেয়ার পূর্বে এটি ধরে নিয়েছি। যে স্থানে সেটি ধরে নেওয়া হয়, সেখানে তুলে নেওয়ার পূর্বে এটি ঠিক হয়।

পাতাটি তুলে নেওয়ার পরে আমি তার প্রকৃতিতে দেখতে পাই। এটি কিছুতেই নয়। পাতাটি সবসময়ই দেখতে পাওয়া যায়।

আমার মনে হয়, এটি একটি সাময়িক কাঠামো হতে পারে। যদিও এটি আমার মনে হয়ে থাকে, তবুও সেটি কে তৈরি করেছিল তা আমি জানি না।

সুচো প্রস্তাব করছি এটি আমার কাছে দান করি।

প্রিয় দৈর্ঘন্ত খুম্বিতা
রমাপ্রসাদ নায়ক
Besarapalai

Rajendra

Ramjan

Rajendra Mahanki

Adhij Ka Sare Sadev

Durga Nahini

Dhara

Bihar Bank
পূর্বে দেওয়া বাংলা লিখিত পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করে নিম্নলিখিত গল্পটি লেখা হয়েছে:

গল্পটির শেষ ভাগের পাশে কাঠামো অনুসারে সমীকৃত হয়েছে: 

৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০১১, ৮:৩০ সালিং-এ একটি অভিনব ঘটনা ঘটে। দুই ঘনটির মধ্যে একটি পুলিশ রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের সময় একটি গৃহস্থিতি বিক্ষোভ হয়। তখন একজন পুলিশ অফিসার এবং তার হিতধর্মী ব্যক্তিত্ব বিক্ষোভ জাগরুতি প্রদর্শন করেন।

শেষ পর্যন্ত কাঠামো সমীক্ষার জন্য পুলিশ ও অফিসারের সহযোগিতায় গল্পটি সমাপ্ত হয়।

নির্দেশনা: 

গল্পের শেষে নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী গল্পটি সম্পন্ন হয়েছে।

কৃতি: 

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Certified that this register has been used up to page 21 till to day.

D. P. O. 15 Dec. 1921

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[Signature]

Date: 26/2/2012

Executive Officer
DHINKIA T.P.
ANNEXURE-IV

• Letter of PPSS dated May 2nd, 2011
POSCO PRATIRODH SANGRAM SAMITI  
Villages Nuagaon, Gadkujang, Dhinkia; Erasama Block, Jagatsinghpur District, Odisha

02.05.2011

To:
Shri Jairam Ramesh  
Minister of State (I/C) for Environment and Forests

Sub: Further brazen falsehoods by the Odisha government

Dear Shri Ramesh,

In regard to the Odisha government’s letter of April 29th, while reserving our right to reply further, please consider:

- As per the Ministry’s order of July 30, 2009 and clarification on the POSCO final clearance (8.1.2010), certificates from the palli sabha consenting to the diversion of forest land, and stating that the FRA has been implemented, are required. The state government has not supplied these. Without certificates from the palli sabhas the project cannot go ahead and the Ministry cannot permit it to do so, except by violating the law and its own orders.

- The government has simply lied about the palli sabha resolutions. It claims there were only 69 and 64 signatures on the resolutions, but the hard copies of the full resolution - with more than 70% quorum in both Dhinkia and Gobindpur villages - were sent by registered post A/D to all Odisha government authorities and to the Ministry. We believe that the Odisha government has deliberately used the scanned electronic copies sent to you, whose covering letter explicitly stated that only the first page of signatures was being included. The hard copies are already with you, and the veracity of their statements can easily be checked. We have already established that these are valid.

- Besides, while accusing the villagers of having not met quorum, the government cites a “resolution” signed by 34 people (in a village of 1907 people) as proof of implementing the Forest Rights Act. Does quorum only apply to resolutions sent by us and not to ones sent by them? Can there be any better proof that they have not implemented the Act, and therefore that diversion would be illegal, as correctly stated in the April 14th letter?

- Moreover, the government is in any case required to submit palli sabha certificates on the issue of forest diversion for POSCO (not general “resolutions” as enclosed in this letter). It has never done so. The easiest way to settle this dispute is to let the government call a palli sabha on this issue; we have no objection. Neutral State, Central and civil society observers should be present to certify that it took place as per law.

- We reiterate that the Ministry now has written, indisputable proof of lies by the State government. In addition to the above, the government still says the land was not forest in 1930 when their own revenue maps and the Survey of India prove that it was. The current letter includes exactly the same set of false statements that were made to the POSCO Enquiry Committee and proved false in chapter 3 of the majority report. Is the Ministry going to take no action on these blatant lies, told to it so brazenly? Is the Ministry’s statutory authority a joke to be toyed with? We and other pro-people forces intend to pursue all possible legal avenues against those responsible for these gross falsehoods, and call upon the Ministry to also do so, if only to preserve the dignity of its authority.

We also reiterate that there are STs cultivating forest land, and two of them lost their lands to the takeover in July 2010, as proven by the government’s own records. There are fishworkers with recorded rights that would be eligible under the Forest Rights Act. Are the rights of all of these people going to be ignored? Further, the illegalities in the environment and CRZ clearance also appear to have been forgotten.

It is remarkable that the Ministry continues to take no action when the Odisha government and POSCO have broken clearance conditions, violated the Forest Rights Act and the EIA / CRZ notifications, challenged the Ministry’s authority and, finally, lied to the Ministry’s face. If this is not sufficient to require withdrawal of the clearances, we fail to understand what would be.

The individual claims process in this area was delayed by the failure of the government officials to respond to the notice of the Forest Rights Committee, and these claims are now expected to be approved by the palli sabhas of Dhinkia and Gobindpur later this week. The details will be communicated to the Ministry.

Sincerely,

(Abhay Sahoo)  
Chairperson