



Dated 06 December 2021

To

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre  
2-8 Scrutton Street, 2nd Floor, London, EC2A 4RT,  
UK

**Sub:** Invitation to respond: JSW in the Weekly Update

**Ref:** "Villagers oppose Odisha's largest green field steel project proposal", 21 November 2021, *The Hindu*: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/villagers-oppose-odishas-largest-green-field-steel-project-proposal/article37612300.ece>

At the outset, we thank you for reaching out and providing us with an opportunity to present JSW Utkal Steel's perspective.

The background to this project and our response is as follows –

- The Government of Odisha had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with POSCO of South Korea in June, 2005 for establishment of a 12 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha with a Captive Port. The Project required 4004 acres of land including 437 acres of private land spreading over eight revenue villages. The Central Government accorded forest clearance in May, 2011. Subsequently the betel vines were removed by the District Administration and IDCO (Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation) which is the agency of the State Government to make the land encroachment-free. The land which was made encroachment-free was handed over to IDCO. Eventually the POSCO project could not come up.
- In 2017, JSW proposed to set up a steel plant of same capacity over lesser land – (2950 acres) at the same location. In this regard the land requirement has been assessed by MECON, the Central Government agency and approved by IPICOL (Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha). The transfer of forest clearance has been approved by the MoEF&CC (Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change) and subsequently the State Government has also passed the necessary order.  
*(Please note that MoEF&CC is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, coordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies and programs)*
- District administration has started the process of public consultation to finalise the compensation. The compensation so fixed will be disbursed by the Project proponent to the people. This article limits to the concerns of the Dhinkia village, which has about 45 acres against the total requirement of 2950 acres. There is no likely displacement



expected from the Dhinkia village. Contrary to the claim of the Dhinkia, the rest of the villages are willing to part with the land in lieu of the compensation.

- The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy of Odisha is considered having better provisions, such as binary revision in every two years. JSW has proposed the R & R package better than what has been prescribed in the Odisha R & R Policy. The district administration will fix up the compensation taking into account the concerns of the people.
- During the interaction meetings, some of the villagers requested to consider for preferential engagement/employment as per their eligibility and qualification. They also suggested for arrangement of appropriate trainings to upgrade their skill to make them employable. JSW is planning appropriate actions to address the request.
- The project has the potential to generate employment opportunities of around 12000 direct and 45000 indirect employments during the operation phase. As mandated by environment clearance, a green belt of over 33% of the total area will be created.

JSW Group has a comprehensive Sustainability Framework. As part of this framework, JSW has policy on Indigenous peoples and Resettlement and commits

- To fair and just compensation that it is paid in full as per agreed timescales;
- Explore all options of additional assistance for those who are physically or economically displaced, placing particular emphasis on any vulnerable groups;
- Provide support and resources to protect vulnerable customs, cultures and traditions;

We remain committed to ensure full compliance to the country's regulation and our stated commitments.

Kind Regards

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