

Reply to e-Petition #2

Thanks for your mail addressed to Mr. Ratan Tata. We appreciate your interest in conserving our valuable natural heritage: Orissa's marine turtles. Please be assured that we are as concerned as you are, and are working untiringly to ensure that the development of the port doesn't in any way harm the turtles which visit the Orissa coastline.

We understand that a lot of misinformation on the port has been generated by certain environmental groups, notably Greenpeace India. Greenpeace India had raised these concerns and had a meeting with us where we had explained to them the facts about the location of our port and the steps that we are taking to see that our activities do not affect the turtles. Greenpeace had listed its concerns and sought our responses to each of them, which we have since given in great detail. You can see their concerns and our responses on our website www.dhamraport.com under the section on "environment". You can judge for yourself that there is no issue which we have not addressed and that Greenpeace has no reason to launch a campaign of this nature.

Contrary to baseless claims made by Greenpeace in recent online posts, the Port is not being built on the nesting beach, but 15 km to the north of the nesting beach, which turtles are known to be coming from the south. The entry of ships to the port is also from further north, so that ships do not go anywhere near the marine sanctuary within which the nesting beach is located. That is why, we have received all the necessary permits from the concerned national and state authorities. Even then, we did not want to take any chances and have associated with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is the world's leading group of scientists and conservationists. IUCN is helping us to identify those areas where possible harm can arise from, like dredging and lighting, and take steps to prevent it. They are helping us design lighting systems and dredging operations which will not impact turtles, and to develop a comprehensive environmental management plan which will guide us through subsequent operations. IUCN's view on the matter can be accessed at its website, www.iucn.org.

As you will appreciate, we are being guided by the best possible scientific advice available across the world and not by unfounded speculations disseminated by certain vested interests. We are sure you will visit our website to know the facts and not be guided by those who want to launch a campaign for the sake of it.

Let me assure you that we in DPCL and our promoters in Tata Steel and L&T are fully cognizant of our responsibility to society and environment and would not do anything that may jeopardize the environment. In our case, it is not only the three companies but also the state government of Orissa which is involved in the development of this infrastructure in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode to fulfill the developmental requirement of one of the most backward regions of the country. In fact it is the state

government which had selected the site after a comprehensive study of all aspects and the environmental clearance was also obtained by the state government.

If you have any other concern or query do feel free to write to us.

Sincerely yours,

Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

Chief Executive Officer

The Dhamra Port Company Limited