

F. No. 8-58/2016-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 19th July, 2018

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
State Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore,

Sub: Diversion of 72.177 ha of forest land in Sy. No. 1/1 of Bhutaramanahatti village, Belgaum Taluk and District for Establishment of Rani Chennamma University in favour of the Registrar, Rani Chennamma University, Belgaum.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department vide their letter no. D. O No. FEE 101 FLL 2016 dated 29.11.2017 submitting above subject proposal for approval of the Central Government under Section- 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 19th June, 2018. The detailed minutes of the FAC meetings are placed on the website of this Ministry: www.forrestclearance.nic.in.

2. FAC in its meeting held on 19th June, 2018 after thorough deliberation and FAC observed that the case for diversion of forest land in favour of Rani Chennamma University under the provisions of FCA-1980 is pending since long. The State Government was asked to submit details pertaining to the circumstances under which the forest land was leased out to the user agency. The clarification submitted by the State Government is not convincing. It is the fact that the State Government was aware of the status of the land as "Forest land", when the actual land use of the forest land was changed by the user agency. In this regard different offences have been booked by the Forest department and the DC Belgaam was requested by the then DFO to cancel the lease. Instead of acting on the advice and request, the state government proceeded with the construction over the forest land without following the statutory requirements under the act. The present case is a violation of the provisions of FCA-1980. On analysis through DSS it is noted that non-Forest land is available adjoining to the proposed Forest land sought for diversion. FAC after thorough deliberation and discussion with Nodal officer Karnataka, APCCF in charge Regional Office, Bangalore observed that:

- i. State Government shall initiate action for violation as per the provisions of Government of India Guidelines 11-42/2017-FC dated 29.01.2018.
- ii. State Government shall explore possibility of establishing the university campus in the alternate non-Forest land. Detail analysis of at least 3 possible sites may be submitted.

- iii. On Analysis in DSS it is observed that the actual change in land use is restricted to a small portion of the forest area. State Government shall demarcate the area and submit detail of actual forest area under non-forest use at present. The shape file of the same shall be submitted.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to furnish the information/ documents/ Action taken report (ATR) on the points as indicated above at para 2 (i) to (iii), for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,


(Shrawan Kumar Verma)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Regional Office, Bangalore.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Divisions, MoEF&CC.
5. Guard File


(Shrawan Kumar Verma)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)