

F.No.2-1/2003-FC (Pt. V)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.
New Delhi, the 26th May 2005

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Feasibility of adopting the concept of common dumping grounds for mines located in Bellary Hospet region of Karnataka.

Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry's letter vide No.2-1/99-FC dated:05-02-2003 regarding mining in forest areas of Bellary-Hospet region in Karnataka, I am directed to inform that issue of feasibility of adopting the concept of common dumping grounds for mines located in Bellary Hospet region of Karnataka was considered by Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in its meeting held on 25-02-2005. In the meeting, FAC observed that common dumping ground in Bellary-Hospet region is not a feasible solution. However, to firm up its view, a team of FAC including Prof. B.B. Dhar, a Mining Expert, inspected the mining sites in Bellary-Hospet region from 10th May to 12th May 2005 along with forest officials of the State Forest Department. After detailed study of the region and discussions with officials of the State Forest Department and Mine Owner's Association, the team of FAC gave its report which was placed before FAC on 25-04-2005. FAC accepted the report and recommended that common dumping ground is not a feasible solution for mines located in Bellary Hospet region.

In view of the recommendations of FAC, Central Government, hereby, **approves** that common dumping ground shall not be insisted upon for mines located in Bellary Hospet region, Karnataka. However, to regulate the mining in Bellary Hospet region, following additional conditions shall be complied by all mine owners who have mining leases in forest areas:

1. The miners shall construct proper retaining walls to avoid erosion of the dumps and maintain the already existing roads to contain the dust, under supervision of the State Forest Department.
2. Miners' Association shall raise plantations on either side of the approach roads in consultation with the State Forest Department.
3. As far as possible and technically feasible, close conveyer belts shall be installed to transport iron ore from the mines to the bottom of the hills to reduce surface transportation.
4. The local forest officials and the miners shall give more emphasis on use of local grasses, herbs, shrubs and tree species to stabilize the dumps, and undertake phasing out of the eucalyptus plantations in a planned manner with

better species like *Pongamia spp.* and *Hardwickia binata* etc. Association shall raise a common nursery for *Pongamia spp.*, *Hardwickia* and other local species to meet the requirement of miners.

5. The State Government shall observe the time limit fixed under F.C. (Conservation) Rules, 2003, while forwarding the proposal, for Forest Clearance to avoid unnecessary delays.
6. The State Government shall take up up-gradation and black-topping of the existing roads constructed prior to 1980, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter no.11-48/2002-FC dated 14-9-2004 and 30-4-2005, at the project cost.
7. Concerns of miners for expediting the environmental clearances shall be looked into, and also in case of environmental clearances, the requirement of public hearing shall be examined, if there is marginal increase in the project area.

Yours faithfully,



(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Joint Secretary (CM), Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
4. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Bangalore.
5. The Nodal Officer(FC), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
6. Director(FC)
7. AIGF(P)/AIGF(S)
- ✓ 8. Guard file.