



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
 Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada
 Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road
 Vijayawada – 520010, Andhra Pradesh
 email: iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in



F.No. 4-APB211/2023-VIJ/ 220

Date: 28th February, 2024

To

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
 Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
 Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
 Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 2.03 ha of forest land falling in Compartment No. 594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite in favour of the Proprietor: M/s. Rama Minerals, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh - reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government letter No.805/Section.II/2023/2068735 dated 15/05/2023 and PCCF (HoFF) letter No.EFS02-15029/8/2018-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1 dated 27/12/2023 and Online Proposal No.FP/AP/QRY/152052/2022 seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section 2 (1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government and with the approval of the competent authority, I am directed convey the Central Government's in-principle approval under Section 2 (1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the diversion of **2.03 ha.** of forest land falling in Compartment No. 594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite in favour of the Proprietor: M/s. Rama Minerals, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Demarcation of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency. The User Agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone;

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- (iii) The State Forest Department shall raise and maintain plantation in equivalent extent of non-forest land identified in two Bits in Sy.no.582-4, 582-5 and 584 of Godduvelagala Village, Gandalapenta Manda, Ananthapuramu Division, Sri Satya Sai District, from the funds to be provided by the User Agency. UA shall ensure fencing of the CA area at its cost;
- (iv) The non-forest land proposed for CA over an extent of 2.15 ha in two Bits (Bit-1- 0.75 ha and Bit-2- 1.40 ha) ha in Sy.no.582-4, 582-5 and 584 of Godduvelagala Village, Gandalapenta Mandal Ananthapuramu Division, Sri Satya Sai District identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval. A copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act, may be submitted by the State Government prior to Stage-II approval;
- (v) The approved CA land and compensatory afforestation scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (vi) The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring 2.03 ha from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and Ministry's guideline No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022.
- (vii) Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- (viii) All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>);
- (ix) Dumping shall be carried out within the earmarked extent of area as specified in the mining plan. The user agency shall ensure stabilization of the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/ benching so as to ensure that that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28 degrees;
- (x) As the mining plan is submitted for the first 5 years of the mining lease period, the approved mining plan shall be submitted to Sub Office Vijayawada before commencement of mining activity from 6th year onwards;

- (xi) As the area is prone for soil erosion; the User Agency shall implement proper measures to check soil erosion at the project cost;
- (xii) As proposed by the State Government, the User Agency shall deposit Rs.2.50 lakh per hectare to ensure reclamation of mined area once the mines are exhausted for minerals as a precautionary measure, in case UA fails to undertake reclamation, The User Agency shall abide by the rules / Hon'ble court directions and shall strictly comply to ensure reclamation of mined out area before handing over to the forest department or during specified period as per the mining plan as the case may be;
- (xiii) As the UA proposed to utilize the forest road to reach BT road, the User charges equivalent to the cost of permit charges at Rs.10/- per metric tons as fixed by the State Government in G.O.Ms.No.35, EFS&T (For.I) Department,Dated.6-2-2010 for the permits issued for transportation of Steatite and Dolomite on quarterly basis shall be paid through DD in favour of the District Forest Officer, Anantapuramu for using the existing forest road so as to enable the forest department to maintain the road. The State shall take all mitigation measure to keep the nature of forest land intact and not the forest and wildlife adversely impacted;
- (xiv) Minimum number of trees to be felled wherever such trees exists in incline portions and other components proposed in the proposal and trees existing in the remaining surface area of the underground mining portion shall not be felled;
- (xv) The State Forest Department shall ensure in house monitoring of the project site every year and such monitoring report shall be submitted to Sub Office Vijayawada through State Government;
- (xvi) In case the mining lease is adjoining habitation, the stretch of the boundary of the safety zone of the lease adjacent to the habitation/roads should be properly fenced by the User Agency at the project cost to protect the vegetation/regeneration activities in the safety zone;
- (xvii) Safety zone shall be maintained as a green belt and to ensure dense canopy cover in the area, regeneration activity shall be taken up by the User Agency at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xviii) The State Forest Department shall carry out afforestation and its maintenance on degraded forest land over an extent of 0.830 ha (one and half times the

safety zone area) in degraded forest area in Compartment no.632, Molakathall RF, Gooty Range, Ananthpauramu Division in lieu of safety zone area of 0.55 ha;

- (xix) The State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 meters from the outer perimeter of the mining lease using native species at the project cost;
- (xx) The User Agency shall undertake mining and reclamation as per the approved mining plan, and submit an annual compliance report to the Sub Office, Vijayawada;
- (xxi) The diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under. The User Agency shall submit a copy of the mining lease once obtained, to the Sub Office, Vijayawada for record;
- (xxii) The User Agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986;
- (xxiii) Consent of the State Pollution Control Board shall be obtained under the Air and Water Acts before commencement of mining operations and it shall be renewed regularly;
- (xxiv) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land. The User Agency shall provide firewood, preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
- (xxv) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xxvi) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, Court Orders and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to such project;
- (xxvii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 2.03 ha. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;

- (xxviii) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency or Department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xxix) Any other condition that the Regional office may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xxx) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980;
- (xxxi) The in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of the same. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval may be revoked as per the rules;
- (xxxii) The State Government / User Agency shall ensure submission of compliance report on above conditions through online i.e. (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- (xxxiii) Violation of any of these conditions will amounts to violation Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adihiniyam 1980.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions within 2 years, the in-principle approval shall be deemed to be null and void.

Yours faithfully



(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra

- Pradesh, AranyaBhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, AranyaBhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004;
 4. Smt. Bikkala Ramadevi, M/s. Rama Minerals, No. B7, SK University, Staff Quarters, SV Puram, Ananthapuramu District -515 003, Andhra Pradesh.
 5. Guard file.

-Sd-
(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Signed by Balaji Kari

Date: 28-02-2024 11:02:33