

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 01-06-2026

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests)
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 1 (II) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 8.803 ha. of forest land in F.Sy.No.52A, Arga village, Bada Hobli, Karwar taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for establishing stone quarry and its approach road, dumping yard in favour of M/s. Shivaprasad Industries (earlier applied in f/o M/s Ramashree Constructions Company), Kodibag, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka State. (Online Proposal NoFP/KA/QRY/31539/2018) –reg

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 10 FFM 2022 (e) dated 16/04/2022 on above mentioned subject proposal, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and with the approval of competent authority, the Central Government hereby accords "In-principle/Stage-I" approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 8.803 ha. of forest land in F.Sy.No.52A, Arga village, Bada Hobli, Karwar taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for establishing stone quarry and its approach road, dumping yard in favour of M/s. Shivaprasad Industries (earlier applied in f/o M/s Ramashree Constructions Company), Kodibag, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka State, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions: -

General conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over 8.808 ha of non-forest land identified by the user agency, i.e. 0.969 ha in Sy. No 76A2 of Kadavada village, and 7.834 ha. in Sy.No.69, Belur village, Kinnara Hobli, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District within two years from the date of grant of Stage II

- approval;
- iii. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department. The CA scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
 - iv. The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the final approval;
 - v. The non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department or the revenue forest land, as the case may be, shall be notified by the State Government as Protected Forests under Section- 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
 - vi. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal as per the guideline issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06/01/2022 and as per the provision of Chapter 3 of the consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued vide MoEF&CC order dated 29.12.2023.
 - vii. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
 - viii. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted
 - ix. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023
 - x. The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
 - xi. The KML files of proposed forest area for diversion and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details;
 - xii. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
 - xiii. Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department
 - xiv. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
 - xv. The boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
 - xvi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
 - xvii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
 - xviii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior

- approval of the Central Government;
- xix. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xx. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
 - xxi. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
 - xxii. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
 - xxiii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
 - xxiv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency
 - xxv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

Standard Conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the DDGF (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
- ii. The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per such schedule to the MoEF&CC before grant of 'Final' approval under the Adhinyam for diversion of the said forest land;
- iii. The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;
- iv. **Safety Zone Management:** Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing,

- protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and
 - d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
- v. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
- a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of 'Final' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved Plan/scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme;
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- vi. The validity of approval granted under the Adhinyam shall be for a period co-terminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government;
- vii. The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval;
- viii. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;
- ix. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;

- x. Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities; and
- xi. The User Agency will undertake comprehensive soil and moisture conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted along with the 'in- principle' approval;

Specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall demarcate 2ha. out of the quarry area for mining. Leftover area (3.66 ha) shall be kept as a green zone. No quarrying shall be carried out in the green zone. The user agency has to submit the undertaking in this regard. Further, State Government shall submit the updated land use plan and corresponding KML files along with compliance report.
- ii. The State Government has to submit an approved site specific wildlife mitigation plan along with the Stage-I compliance report. The same shall be implemented at the cost of user agency.
- iii. The State Government has to submit the revised Mining plan duly approved by the competent authority along with compliance report.
- iv. The State Government shall take action against the user agency for encroachment of the forest land under the local forest act. Action taken in this regard shall be submitted along with Stage-I compliance report. KML files demarcating the extent of encroachment on forest land shall also be submitted.
- v. In accordance with the provisions of para 1.16 of the Consolidated Guidelines, the State Government shall realize the penal NPV for the forest area used in violation of the Adhinyam by the user agency which shall be five times the NPV of forest land used in violation, plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand and till the deposit is made by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
- vi. The Ministry has issued guidelines dated 21.01.2026 prescribing penal compensatory afforestation in cases where forest land has been used in violation of the provisions of the Adhinyam. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure compliance with the said guidelines and identify land towards penal compensatory afforestation, in lieu of forest land used in the violation of the Adhinyam along with supporting documents such as the KML file, Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, etc. The compensatory levies corresponding to the penal CA shall be deposited in the account of the State CAMPA, and the same shall be duly intimated to the Ministry.
- vii. Penal compensatory afforestation, proposed by the State Government shall be verified by Regional Office, Bengaluru and report shall be sent to the Ministry for examination along with CA details during submission of compliance report of Stage- I approval.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of

the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF& HoFF, Karnataka Forest Department, Bengaluru
2. The PCCF& Nodal Officer ,Karnataka Forest Department, Bengaluru
3. The DDGF, Regional Office, Bengaluru for needful action in the matter.
4. User agency
5. Monitoring Cell