



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

No.M1/MNG/MSPL/M.L.2563/2019-20

Dated: 27.04.2021

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 32.49 Ha of forest land (30.09 Ha for mining lease and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road) In Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No 2563: erstwhile C-category mine e-auctioned), in favour of M/s. MSPL Limited, the Preferred Bidder. **(Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]) – Reg.**

- Ref:** 1) Online Application No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]
2) Proposal received electronically on 22.12.2020 from of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore
3) M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet letter Dt.21.12.2020 & 15.01.2021
4) This office even number Dt.22.12.2020.
5) Letter No. ACF/MSPL/KLD/2563/2021 Dt. 23.03.2021 of the Range Forest Officer, Sandur North Range, Sandur.
6) Letter No. ACF/TA/M/sMSPL/ML No. 2563/2019-20 Dt. 29.03.2021 of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari

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With reference to the above subject, M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet has submitted an online proposal for diversion of 32.49 Ha of forest land (30.09 Ha for mining lease and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road) in Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2563; e-auctioned, erstwhile C-category mine), in favor of M/s. MSPL Limited, the Preferred Bidder. (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]) vide reference (1) above. The Nodal Officer and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru has scrutinized and forwarded the same in the online portal. The UA has submitted hard copy of the proposal vide Ref(3).

Office of the undersigned directed the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari and Range Forest officer, Sandur North Range, Sandur to conduct field verification through Joint Survey and submit complete proposal for diversion of 32.49 Ha of forest land (30.09 Ha for mining lease and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road) In Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No 2563: e-auctioned, erstwhile C-category mine), in favor of M/s. MSPL Limited, the Preferred Bidder. (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]).

The Range Forest Officer, Sandur North Range, Sandur and Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari have conducted joint inspection on 30.12.2020 & 31.12.2020 and submitted their report vide letter under Ref(5) & (6). A perusal of the records submitted and upon personal visit to the proposed site on 16th April, 2021, it is observed that the User Agency has submitted the proposal for diversion of 32.49 Ha of forest land (30.09 Ha for mining lease and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road) in Ramanamalai Block of Sandur North Range,. The area was previously operated as Ramdev Iron Ore Mine (ML No. Sandur Taluk, Ballari

District 2563) which was later listed as C-category mine and is now allotted to the User Agency (M/s. MSPL Limited, the Preferred Bidder in the e-auctioned conducted by the Department of Mines & Geology (vide letter No.DMG-17012/6/2018/2019-20/5835 Dt. 25.12.2019). The said Forest area falls under Eco class-III with Southern Dry Deciduous type of Forests. The proposed area is sparsely vegetated with trees like *Albizia lebbek*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Choroxylon swietenia*, *Grewia tilliaefolia*, *Lagerstromia paviflora* and *Jungle wood etc*. Enumeration of the trees that need to be felled has been done.

About the Mining Lease: The Mining Lease deed with the erstwhile lessee was executed (vide Mining Lease No.1672) on 16.06.1980 in favour of M/s. Kanhaiyalal Dudheria for a period of 20 years. Further, the Lease was renewed vide the Mining Lease agreement executed on 19.10.2007 for a period of 20 years with effect from 16.06.2000, thus making it valid up to 15.06.2020.

Details of the Forest Clearance: The Clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the said mining lease was sanctioned by the Government of India vide letter No. F(C)/A/16.01/105/KAR/MIN/1056 Dt. 12.10.2007. Government of Karnataka vide order No. FEE-123, FFM-2007 Dt. 18.10.2007 has approved the same in favour of M/s. Kanhaiyalal Dudheria (ML No 2563) over an area of 33.76 Ha in RM Block, Sandur taluk for a period of 20 years w.e.f 16.06.2000 and co-terminus with the lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957, **thus making it valid up to 15.06.2020**. As per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP No. 562/2009, CEC had carried out joint survey of the lease area of ML No. 2563 and arrived at an extent of 30.09 Ha and classified it as C-category mine. Subsequently, the Mining Lease was cancelled as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order Dt.18.04.2013 in its WP No.562/2009.

Further in pursuance to the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order Dt. 30.07.2015, the Mining Lease area has been e-auctioned by the Department of Mines & Geology on 05.09.2018. M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet has been declared as successful bidder for the said mining area (over an extent of 30.09 Ha). The Commissioner, Department of Mines & Geology, Bangalore has issued a Letter of Acknowledgment to M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet as Successful Bidder (Letter No. DMG-17012/6/2018/2019-20/5835 Dt. 25.12.2019 over an extent of 30.09 hectares).

Initially, the new lessee (M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet) had submitted a request for transfer of lease vide Letter No. MSPL/RIOM-2563/FC-transfer/02/2019-20 Dt. 21.05.2019 vide online proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/40682/2019 (FORM-B) which has been forwarded to the Government of India and is under consideration. Thereafter, due to expiry of the present lease period (which was valid up to 15.06.2020), M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet has made fresh application for Forest Clearance vide online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A].

Other important details related to the Lease;

- a. **Extent of Lease:** The Forest Clearance was granted for an extent of 33.76 hectares, whereas as per the joint survey by the CEC and their digitization sketch, the extent of lease area was concluded to be 30.09 hectares. Therefore, The Commissioner, Department of Mines & Geology, Bangalore has issued a Letter of acknowledgment as Successful Bidder vide Letter No. DMG-17012/6/2018/2019-20/5835 Dt. 25.12.2019 for an extent of 30.09 hectares and thus the request/proposal by M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet for renewal of lease for 30.09 ha.

Of the 30.09 Ha Forest Area requested, there is an overlap to an extent of 0.0074 Ha with M/s. Lakshmi Minerals (ML No.2545), the mine for which the FC is in currency. Hence, the same (extent of 0.0074 Ha) can be excluded from the proposal. Further,

proposed area to the extent of 0.0003 Ha is overlapping with M/s. A. M. Minerals (ML No. 2278) for which the Forest Clearance has expired and thus the said (0.0003 Ha) area may be include in this instance proposal. Thus, after accounting for the overlapping areas as proposed the area area that can be accrued for the proposed mining is 30.0826 Ha (30.09 ha – 0.0074 ha). **Therefore, the Forest Clearance in the current instant may be proposed over an extent 32.4826 hectares (30.0826 Ha for mining and 2.40 hectares for Approach Road).**

- b. **Details of Approach Road:** The total extent of the proposed Approach Road is 4.25 Ha. About 1.30 Ha of this approach road falls in the Forest Area leased to of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals (ML No. 2545) vide Government of India letter No. 4-KRC-16.1/2006 BAN2323 dated: 12.03.2007 and Government of Karnataka order No. FEE-152, FFM-2005 dated: 23.03.2007 (UA proposes to have an MoU or Consent). Further, an area of 0.22 Ha of Forest Area has been requested for diversion in favour of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals (ML No. 2545) vide online application No. FP/KA/ROAD/39507/2019(which is under consideration) and an area of 0.73 Ha falls in Non-Forest land. The rest 2.40 Ha of the proposed approach road falls in Forest Area (Ramanamalai Block Forest) and hence M/s MSPL, Hospet has proposed for diversion of 2.40 Ha as Approach Road in their favour.
- c. **Net Present Value (NPV):** The previous User Agency (M/s. Kahannaiah Lal Dudheria) has remitted Rs. 2,16,64,000/- vide DD No. 621402 Dt. 11.09.2007 Net Present Value as per approved under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The NPV amount has been revised as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC Dt. 05.02.2009. (i.e. Rs. 8,03,000/- per Ha). M/s MSPL Limited, Hospet has submitted undertaking to remit the differential amount worked as per the prevailing rates of Net Present Value (NPV).
- d. **Safety Zone:** The Safety zone extent as per the R & R plan approved by the ICFRE for the proposed lease is 1.90 hectares. The copy of sketch is enclosed.
- e. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** The earlier lessee i.e. M/s Kanhaiyalal Dudheria had identified C&D land in Sy No.156 of Rayapura village Ballari Taluk, Ballari District over an extent of 10.12 Ha and Sy No. 3 of Garaga Village Hospete Taluk, Bellary District over an extent of 7.10 Ha. The said land has not been transfer and mutated in favour of Forest Department. M/s MSPL Limited has identified CA land at Sy.No.6/6 of Amagaon Village, Khanapura Taluk, Belagavi District over an extent of 15.30 hectares. However, suitable direction may be issued to the proponent (M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet) to identify CA land for raising of compensatory as per Government of Karnataka Order No. FEE 82 FLL 2016 Dt. 31-08-2016.

The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to provide Compensatory Afforestation Land as per the stipulated extent as per the prevailing rules.

- f. Certificate in Form-I & II under Forest Rights Act-2006 from the Deputy Commissioner is not been issued yet. M/s MSPL Limited, Hospet has requested Deputy Commissioner, Ballari for issuance of the same vide letter Dt. 17.08.2019 & 16.10.2020.

- g. The Environmental Clearance has been transferred from M/s. Kannaiah Lal Dudheira to M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet vide No. SEIAA 9 Misc 2019 Dt. 13.05.2019 by State Level Environment Impact Assessment authority, Karnataka.
- h. The New Mining Plan has been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Bangalore vide letter No. 279/1102/2019/BNG/551 Dated: 27/30.09.2019 as submitted by M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet.
- i. The proposed forest land is not part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve and elephant corridor etc. Further, the proposed area is 8.31 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 6.02 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, 36.22 km away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 32.10 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.

The proposal for diversion of **32.4826 hectares (30.0826 Ha for mining and 2.40 hectares for Approach Road)** in Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No 2563; e-auctioned, erstwhile C-category mine) in favor of M/s. MSPL Limited (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is herewith submitted for further consideration.

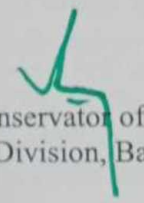
The proposal is submitted for kind information and further needful action.

Yours Faithfully,

Sd/-

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari

- 1) Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru for kind information.
- 2) Copy to M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet for information.


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

The proposed area for diversion of 32.49 Ha of forest land (30.09 Ha for mining lease and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road) In Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No 2563: erstwhile e-auctioned C-category mine), in favor of M/s. MSPL Limited, the Preferred Bidder (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]) was inspected personally by me on 16th April, 2021

The proposed unit of land measuring 32.49 Ha of forest land (30.09 Ha for mining lease and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road) falls in Ramanamalai Block of Sandur North Range Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. The area falls under Eco class-III with Southern Dry Deciduous type of Forests with spars vegetation consisting of trees like *Albizzia lebbeck*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Choroxylon swietenia*, *Grewia tilliaefolia*, *Lagerstromia paviflora*, etc.

The proposed forest land is not part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor etc. Further, the proposed area is 8.31 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 6.02 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, 36.22 km away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 32.10 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.

It is observed from the records that the Forest Clearance in favour of the erstwhile lessee was granted for 33.76 Ha. However, as per the joint survey by the CEC and their digitization sketch, the extent of lease area was concluded to be 30.09 hectares. The Commissioner, Department of Mines & Geology, Bangalore has issued a Letter of Acknowledgment to M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet as Successful Bidder (vide Letter No. DMG-17012/6/2018/2019-20/5835 Dt. 25.12.2019) for an extent of 30.09 Ha and thus the request/proposal for renewal of lease for 30.09 ha.

Of the 30.09 Ha Forest Area requested, there is an overlap to an extent of 0.0074 Ha with M/s. Lakshmi Minerals (ML No.2545), the mine for which the FC is in currency. Hence the same (extent of 0.0074 Ha) can be excluded from the proposal. Further, 0.0003 Ha is overlapping with M/s. A. M. Minerals (ML No. 2278) for which the Forest Clearance has expired and thus the said (0.0003 Ha) area may be include in this instance proposal. Thus, after accounting for the overlapping areas as proposed the area that can be accrued for the proposed mining is 30.0826 Ha (30.09 ha – 0.0074 ha).

The UA has sought FC for the Approach Road (2.40 Ha) whose total extent is 4.25 Ha. About 1.30 Ha of this approach road falls in the Forest Area leased to of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals (ML No. 2545). The UA proposes to have an MoU or Consent. Further, an area of 0.22 Ha of Forest Area has been requested for diversion in favour of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals (ML No. 2545) vide online application No. FP/KA/ROAD/39507/2019(which is under consideration) and an area of 0.73 Ha falls in Non-Forest land. The rest 2.40 Ha of the proposed approach road falls in Forest Area (Ramanamalai Block Forest) and hence M/s MSPL, Hospet has proposed for diversion of 2.40 Ha as Approach Road in their favour.

The Forest Clearance in the current instant may be proposed over an extent 32.4826 Ha (30.0826 Ha for mining and 2.40 Ha for Approach Road). Hence, proposal for 32.4826 hectares (30.0826 Ha for mining and 2.40 hectares for Approach Road) in Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No 2563; e-auctioned, erstwhile C-category mine) in favor of M/s. MSPL Limited (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may be considered.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari

Dated: 27.04.2021
Place: Ballari