

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ  
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ  
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ  
Office of the  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ  
ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು -560 003  
AranyaBhavan, 18th Cross  
Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003  
Telephone : 080 2334 6472  
Email : apccffc@gmail.com

E-Office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/12/2018-FC

E-62505  
dated 04-06-2022  
07

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment  
M. S. Building, Bengaluru

Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine, ML No.2605 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [*erstwhile M/s Mysore Minerals Limited*], Bengaluru

**Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A]**

**Ref:**

1. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi letter No.8-28/2000FC(VOL.I) dated 15-10-2019 [*Stage-I approval Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/36390/2018*]
2. The General Manager, KMERC, Bengaluru Letter No. KMERC/Rites/83/2019-20/450 dated 04-01-2020 of [*copy of the proceedings of the meeting held on 03-01-2020*]
3. Online proposal [FORM-A (PART-I)] dated 06-07-2020 of M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (formerly known as Mysore Minerals Ltd r/w uploading of Acknowledgement on 05-10-2020 for having delivered hard copies of proposal to jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner
4. This office online communication dated 07-10-2020 to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari [*for processing of proposal*]

5. Online submission of PART-II on 13-02-2022 by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division [*Letter No. MI/MNG/KSPCL/ML No.2605/PCB/2020-21/2180 dated 19-01-2022*]
6. Online submission of PART-III on 25-03-2022 by Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle [*Letter No. MI:MNG:Renw:CR-8/2008-09(MML)/2154 dated 24-03-2022 and 13-05-2022*]

1. Government of India. Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi vide Ref (1) has accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 16.676 ha of forest land for establishing pipeline conveyor belt system in respect of Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No.2605) in favour of KSMCL (erstwhile M/s Mysore Minerals Limited).
2. Under Ref (2) KMERC, Bengaluru as per proceeding of the meeting dated 03-01-2020 the decision taken in the meeting that revised FC proposal for changed alignment of the conveyor belt system will be submitted by KSMCL in respect of Thimmappanagudi Mines. According KSMCL (formerly known as Mysore Minerals Limited). Submitted a revised proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 (FORM-A).
3. M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited, Bengaluru [USER AGENCY formerly known as Mysore Minerals Limited] had submitted an online revised proposal [FORM-A (PART-I)] seeking approval under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine, ML No.2605. The same was accepted by Nodal Officer (FCA) on 14-09-2020 for further processing. After receiving the Acknowledgement online from the User Agency for having delivered the hard copies to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division & Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District on 05-10-2020, the 'online link' was forwarded to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division on 07-10-2020 for field verification and processing under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
4. **Details of this instant Proposal:** M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No.2605) has initiated the proposal in response to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (order dated 21-03-2017 in its WP No.562/2009) stated that (in page No.19 & 21);
  - (x) The closed pipe downhill conveyor systems will be installed at their cost by:

(a) each one of the Category-A / Category-B leases with MPAP of 1 MMT and above and balance lease period of 8 years and above (six leases in District Ballari and one in District Chitradurga identified):

Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed an order dated 13-09-2017 (in page No.5) & 07-12-2017 (in page No.7) in its WP No.562/2009 and says that, in the first instance, the following six mines / leases conveyor belt system should be set up by the lessees themselves:

Sl. No.	User Agency	ML No.	MPAP	Division
1.	M/s SMIORE	2580	1.60 MMT	Ballari
2.	M/s VESCO	2296	1.10 MMT	Ballari
3.	M/s B. Kumaragowda	2516	1.26 MMT	Ballari
4.	KSMCL (MML)	2605	0.65 MMT	Ballari
5.	KSMCL (MML)	2629	3.00 MMT	Ballari
6.	M/s Vedanta Ltd	2677	2.29 MMT	Chitradurga

Therefore, M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited; ML No.2605 (erstwhile M/s Mysore Minerals Limited) has submitted online application for diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for pipeline conveyor belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine ML No.2605 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (erstwhile Mysore Minerals Limited) FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A] under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

5. **Extent of pipe conveyor Belt Proposal:** Total area of the proposal is 20.0224 ha. Out of which 0.7180 ha comes under revenue land and 19.3044 ha comes under forest land. The User Agency has submitted the downhill proposal for diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land at North Eastern Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur for pipe conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine ML No.2605. Details of the forest area sought is as follows:

Sl.No.	Area applied for Forest Clearance	Length (mtr)	Width (mtr)	Area	
				(in Sqm)	(in ha)
1	Proposed approach Road	5985.518	15.00	89782.77	8.9783
2	Proposed downhill conveyor Belt	3591.5635	20.00	71831.27	7.1831
3	Stock Yard	-	-	31430.38	3.1430
<b>Total</b>				<b>193044.42</b>	<b>19.3044</b>

It is felt that the proposed width of the planned Conveyor Belt ( 20 m) and Service Roads (15 m) were on higher side and thus clarification was sought from the proponent about the same (vide letter dated 11-08-2021). Giving the details of dimensions / width required for various components of the said project, the

proponents/ User Agency has justified the planned width Conveyor Belt (20m) and Service Roads (15m)

The User Agency proposes to build loading point within existing lease area for which they have to obtain approval for change in Mining plan from concerned Authorities.

6. **Location and component wise details of the project:** The location and component wise details of the proposal are given below.

District, Taluk, Name of Forest	Village	Project component	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)	Status of forest land
Ballari District, Sandur Taluk, North Eastern Block (NEB) Forest	North Eastern Block	Proposed approach road	8.9783	Section-4 notified
		Proposed down in conveyor belt	7.1831	
		Stock Yard	3.1430	
Total			19.3044	

7. **DCF, Ballari Division Report:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division has inspected the site on 15-07-2021. He has submitted his report in PART-II of the proposal to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle duly recommending the proposal. The details of the proposal as reported by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division r/w the reports of Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle and also of ICT Centre of Forest Department are as follows.

- The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape under Eco-class-III (Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests) with up to 10% canopy 0.01 density [Open forest].
- There are 1757 trees to be felled. They are *Terminalia Tomentosa*, *Anogissus Latofolia*, *Azadirachta Indica*, *Acacia catechu* and others.
- The forest land proposed for diversion is Situated on a ridge, the proposed area is having steep slope. User Agency should take necessary steps to prevent soil erosion.
- Major wild animals found in the area include *Leopard*, *Sloth Bear*, *Jackal*, *Hares*, *Peafowl*, *Wild Boar*, *Grey partridge*, *Indian porcupine*, *Monitor lizard*, *four-horned antelope* and *Pangolin* etc.
- There are other rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna reported in the area.
- The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.

- g. The proposed area is 12.35 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 10.42 kms distance away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Bear Sanctuary and 23.22 kms away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 21.89 kms away from eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.
  - h. The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within one kilometre distance of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.
  - i. There are no protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument located in the area.
  - j. The requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
8. **CCF Ballari Circle Report:** The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle has not inspected the site and has agreed with the report of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballar Division. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle vide Ref (4) has submitted his report in PART-III and has recommended the proposal.
9. **Net Present Value (NPV):** The User Agency is required to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land proposed for diversion as per revised rates of Net Present Value communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-3/2011-FC dated 06-01-2022. **The User Agency has submitted an Undertaking to pay the charges towards Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.**
10. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** In view of diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land involved in the proposal the User Agency is required to provide equivalent non-forest land for CA purpose **the User Agency has identified C & D land in Sy. No.1251(p) of Kuduthini village, Ballari Taluk & District over an extent of 19.3044 ha for raising of Compensatory Afforestation. The said land has been transferred and mutated (vide Mutation No. MR H117/2013-14 dated 31-05-2014) in favour of the Forest Department (Section-4 Notification) vide letter No. A7/land/section-4/bly/KR/CR-12/2018-19 dated 23-05-2018 over an extent of 371.56 ha. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division has submitted the CA Suitability Certificate dated 18-01-2022 and the CA scheme issued./ prepared by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division. The same are enclosed herewith. In addition, the User Agency has also given an Undertaking to pay the CA charges.**
11. **Status of RoFR compliance:** The User Agencies undertaking that Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006 and Rules 2008, Certificate in FORM-I on the forest land proposed to be diverted over an extent of 19.3044 ha the User Agency already obtained FRA certificate for 16.78 ha and the remaining area of 2.5164 ha will be obtained from the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District and submitted at the time of compliance for installation of pipe conveyor from Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine.


12. In order to comply with the order dated 07-12-2017 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in IA No. 247 in WP(Civil) No. 562/2009 regarding mandatory establishment of Conveyor Belt System for mining leases specified therein, which includes the present one, the proposal is required to be processed expeditiously for clearance under FC Act.

13. **Change of Name:** Government of India sought additional information vide letter No. F.No.11/86/2021-FC dated 16-07-2021 same has been submitted to Government of Karnataka this office letter No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/44/2019-FC (E-81928) dated -06-2022 to move the matter with the Government of India, MOEF & CC for change of name in the FC approval from M/s Mysore Minerals Limited, Bengaluru to M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited, Bengaluru.

In light of the facts stated above, **it is requested to move the proposal with the Government of India for according 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine, ML No.2605 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s Mysore Minerals Limited], Bengaluru subject to the submission of balance extent RoFR compliance Certificate conditions specified in Annexure 'A'.**

The hard copy of the proposal along with the relevant documents in 3 sets is submitted herewith for further needful. The present status of the proposal obtained from the web-portal is also appended for necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Raj Kishore Singh, IFS) 7.6.22  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

Copy to the:

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.
3. M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Limited) TTMC "A" Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 002 for information and necessary action.



ANNEXURE - 'A'

1. The legal status of Forest land shall remain unchanged and it shall continue to be forest land.
2. The lessee shall pay lease rent as fixed by the Government from time to time.
3. The lease tenure is for a period co-terminus with the MMDR lease.
4. The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory afforestation Charges, Lease Rent and other government dues as per norms.
5. The leased area should be used for the purpose for which it is granted. In case the land is not used for the stipulated purpose within one year or when it is no longer needed for the stipulated purpose, the area shall be resumed back. The Chief Conservator of Forests / Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned are authorized to take necessary action in this regard.
6. In case of any violation, the proposal Forest Land lease shall be liable for forfeiture under Section 82 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963.
7. No residential buildings shall be permitted in the proposed forest area.
8. The Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 and Rules, 1969 and other relevant Acts & Rules will be applicable for any violation.
9. In order to safeguard the wildlife interests and free movement of wild animals during night, transportation of ore through Conveyer Belt will be limited between sunrise and sunset.
10. The User Agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available fauna and other flora.
11. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
12. Any damage to forest area due to such works shall be compensated by the User Agency. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests.
13. The lessee shall not sub-lease, mortgage or hypothecate the forest area.
14. The User Agency shall also abide by all the conditions imposed by Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force).

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests 7.6.22  
(Head of Forest Force)

**PART – IV**

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Detailed opinion & specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks  <i>(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).</i>	Recommended for according 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for diversion of 19.3044 ha of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine. ML No.2605 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s Mysore Minerals Limited], Bengaluru subject to the submission of balance extent RoFR compliance Certificate conditions specified in Annexure 'A'.  <b>Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020</b>
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Signature:



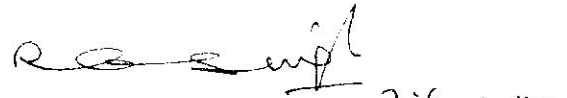
Name:

**VIJAY SHARMA, IFS**

Designation:

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) AND Nodal Officer (FCA)

Countersigned by :



Name:

**RAJ KISHORE SINGH, IFS**

Designation:

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

N.D.O. No: 13 /2022-23

(Official Seal)

Date: 07-06-2022