

REGARDING THE AREA PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND TOWARDS
GRANT OF QUARRY LEASE FOR SILICA SAND IN F/O M/S SRI MINES (MG.
PARTNER: SRI G. SRI RANGA REDDY) IN COMPARTMENT NO. 91 OF MOMIDI RF,
CHILLAKUR MANDAL TIRUPATI DISTRICT.

The proposed quarry lease for Silica sand falls in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi RF of Varagali Beat, thamminapatnam Section of Naidupet Range over an extent of 32.48 Ha. covering Momidi (V) of Chillakur Mandal in Tirupati Forest Division. The proposed area for diversion does not falls in any Sanctuary / National Park / Biosphere Reserve / tiger corridor / elephant corridor etc. The proposed diversion of Forest land not falls in any scheduled area.

Division - Range Section - Beat : Naidupet Range, Thamminapatnam Section, Varagali beat.

Proposed diversion forest area of 32.48 Ha in Momidi R.F. is Notified U/s 16 of Madras Forest Act (V of 1882) vide G.O.Ms. No. 169, Dt: 12.04.1891.

Stretch Wise details

Sl.No.	Linear											
	Area Proposed			Admitted row as per Gazette			Road constructed prior to 1980 (carriage way / Blacktop portion)			Net area required Total		
	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)
	-NIL-											

2. Non-Linear

Non-Linear	
Total Area	32.48 Ha

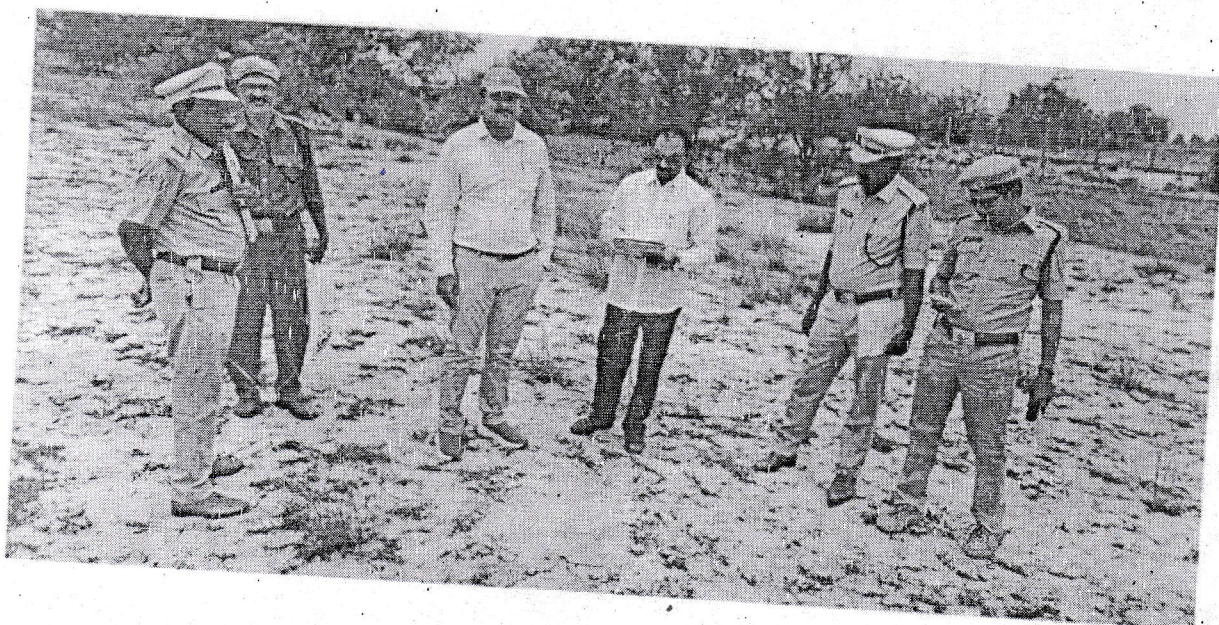
3. Purpose of the proposal :

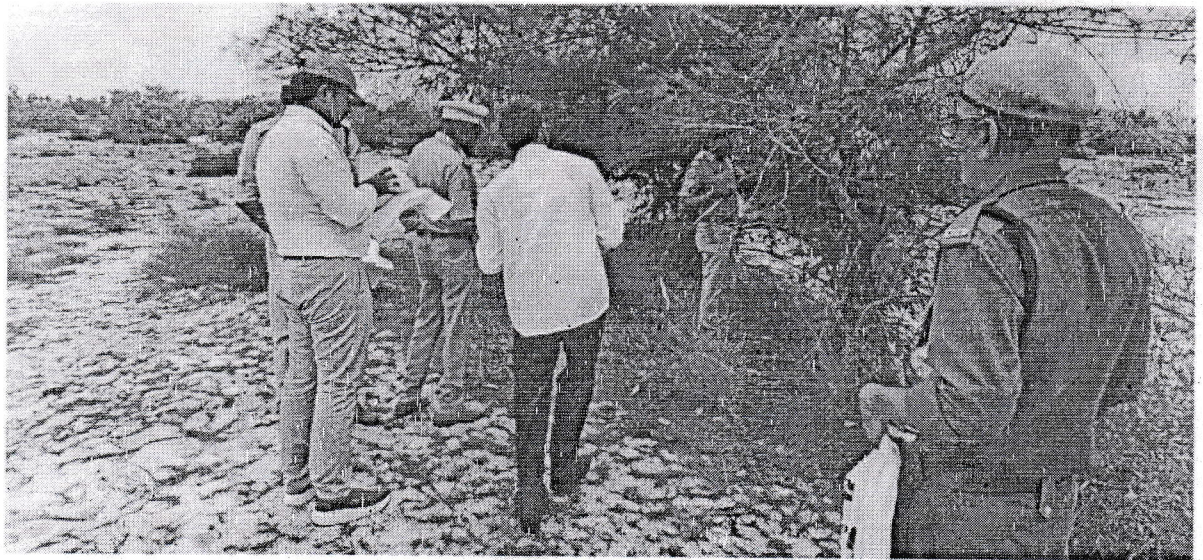
- Purpose: for Mining Silica Sand
- Component wise break up of forest land involved:

Compartment No.	RF	Purpose	Extent (Ha)
91	Momidi R.F.	Mining Silica Sand	30.62
91	Momidi R.F.	Safety Zone Area	1.86
Total :			32.48

Purpose wise breakup of the area requested for forest clearance consonance with the mining plan was approved by the Dy. Director of Mines & Geology in letter No. 291/MP/SS/NLR/2021, Dt:02.07.2022.

- Non-forest land involved: **No Non-Forest land involved.**
- Whether non-forest land involved is having wildlife: **No.**
- Whether the non-forest land is falling in ESZ and the project requires Environmental clearance.: **No.**





4. Comments by the inspecting authority to the Justification given by the User agency:

Justification given by the User agency is not valid ,as informed by the user agency that most of the non-forest areas of surrounding areas was already occupied by the APIIC, SEZs etc.,.

- Whether unavoidable to take forest area - Establishing its inescapability for locating the project in forest area:

Abundant Mineral is available out side the R.F. Therefore mining proposals in this R.F can be avoided.

- Whether Alternatives examined and reasons for rejection of other alternatives:
No alternatives examined by the user agency

- If unavoidable, whether barest minimum forest area is proposed.

No. an area of 30.62 Ha for Mining Silica Sand and Safety Zone Area of 1.86 Ha as applied by User Agency is not barest minimum.

- Whether any suggestions to reduce the forest area for the project (may be examined at the time of DGPS survey).

DGPS survey was done and got authenticated long back

5. 1) Vegetation:

- Dominant species, indicator species and other ecologically important species in the vicinity, (any Rare, Endangered, Threatened and endemic species are present).

The vegetation exists in the proposed mining area is degraded forest having mostly Scrub & thorny bushes with the species of *Syzygium cumini* (Neredu), *Casuarina equisetifolia* (Casurinas), *Anacardium Occidentale* (Cashew), *Ficus benghalensis* (Marri), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Borassus flabellifer* (Palmyrah), *Eucalyptus globules* (Eucalyptus)

- Density of vegetation/tree growth: (In large areas weighted average can be taken)

The total area consists several cashew and casuarina trees. The total of 32.48 Ha is enumerated and 1218 trees having a girth range of 30 to 60 Cm. As seen from field conditions, it is the only RF situated along the sea coast having good vegetation of cashew and casuarina trees which act as shelter belt against cyclones.

- Forest Type:

As per the working plan prescription the forest land proposed for diversion in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi (S) RF falls under the classification of 7/C1 Southern tropical dry ever green forest and Sub-type of 7/C1/DS1 Dry ever green scrub with a forest quality of "poor-class-VI". The Density of the vegetation as per working plan is 0.1.

- Eco-class (as per the FCA guidelines issued by GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi dt.06.01.2022):

The forest type is Eco-Class-IV, Open Forest .

As per my field observation during the field visit the density of vegetation is 0.4.

- Number of trees to be felled: **1218 Nos**

2) Fauna:

- Different fauna available in the project area (10 km radius).

Presence of Wild pig, sloth bear, hair etc., are noticed within 10 Km radius of the proposed mining area.

- Scheduled-I animals or Rare, endangered or threatened species present in the vicinity (i.e 10 km radius).

-NO-

- Whether the surveyed area is falling in protected areas/ ESZ/ Tiger corridor/ Archaeological Heritage sites/ Geological heritage sites.

No, the Forest land proposed for diversion is not falling in any Wildlife Sanctuary / National Park / Tiger Corridor/ Biosphere reserve / Eco-sensitive zone etc.

6. Slope and soil:

- Soil type: Red soil/Black soil/ Deltaic alluvial / Coastal alluvial / sandy /Laterite/ others if any specify:

Proposed forest area of 32.48 Ha in compartment No. 91 of Momidi (S) R.F. consists soil type of Sand, and Sand loamy soils.

- Site quality: I/II/III/IV:

Site quality: II.

- Slope/Terrain: Gentle / Medium/Steep

The terrain of the area is plain with the gentle rolling.

- Soil erosion

Soil erosion will be inevitable if mining lease is granted.

7. Special plans - Mitigative measures to lessen the impact of the project, If any:

- If any impact on (Wildlife) flora and fauna: Wildlife mitigation plan (either in PA or outside PA due to presence of abundant/ important species). Wherever schedule I animals presence is reported in RF area irrespective of PA, a wildlife mitigation plan to conserve such species may be implemented.

No impact assessment on Wildlife is conducted.

- If any impact on soil like erosion etc: Soil moisture conservation plan or any techniques to arrest erosion by vegetative means and engineering structures.

Not possible to take up any engineering structures because of sandy soil .

- If any impact of the project on catchment area: Catchment area treatment plan, river protection plan.

No, streams, nalas inter connecting the other streams/nalas exist in the subject land, hence no CAT plan required.

- If any impact on habitat fragmentation due to linear projects: mitigative measures to reduce the impact of linear projects.

It is not a linear project, and no fragmentation is occurred due to diversion of the land for mining.

- Any special suggestions / conditions to reduce the impact of project concerned.

-NO-

8. Whether any violation of Forest conservation Act, 1980 has been observed :


No violation is noticed, as no work is carried out by the user agency by the time of inspection.

9. Recommendation:

Not recommended in view of , the local villagers and Vana Samrakshana samithies who are cultivating the patta lands adjacent to Momidi Reserve Forest are opposing for granting the mining lease in Momidi Reserve Forest as mining in the Forest area may cause soil erosion, Salt water intrusion and affected with other adverse effects as the area is ecologically fragile since it is situated at a distance of 6 k.m only from the Sea coast of Bay of Bengal. Moreover, the Casuarina and Cashew plants existing in Momidi Reserve Forest were raised by the local villagers of Momidi and Vana samrakshana Samithis to act as barrier during cyclones. The said shelterbelt plantations protect the sea coast from cyclones. Granting of any Mining lease in the Momidi Reserve Forest to be considered

only after conducting Environmental impact study by any premier institute, as granting of one mining lease in the Forest area may lead to grant of other mining leases also which causes the entire Momidi Reserve Forest to be diverted in near future. Hence not recommended

Place: Tirupati
Date: 15.06.2024


District Forest Officer,
Tirupati.