


PART-III

(To be filled by the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests)

**Fresh proposal for diversion of 159.01 ha additional area over an extent of 159.01 ha (Originally 167.63 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, ML No.1111, Donimalai, Sandur,
Online Application No.FP/KA/MIN/6858/2014 dated:03-09-2014.**

1	Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection and observations made in the form of inspection note to be enclosed.	Yes. Inspected the proposed site on 05-09-2019 and my inspection note is enclosed.
2	Whether the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-II and the recommendations of Deputy Conservator of Forests.	I agree with the information given in the Part-II and partly agree with the recommendations of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari.
3	Specific recommendation of concerned Chief Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.	Though the proposed forest area is located adjoining to the already FC approved mining area, it is a fresh/virgin forest area with good canopy cover (canopy cover more than 0.5), having steep slope. Further, through tree enumeration from the sample plots (16 sample plots of 1.00 ha each), about 2642 trees (which needs to be cut/cleared for project). Therefore, if we extrapolate this sample plot data, over 159.01 ha project area, we would arrive about 26000 trees (exact number will be known only after complete total enumeration of tree) which would leads to severe soil erosion and serious environmental damages. Therefore, FC approval for mining activities in this 159.01 ha, fresh forest area would negatively affect the local Flora, Fauna and other environmental resources. Therefore, this project should not be considered for mining keeping the environmental stability of this region which is already damaged to the higher extent due to already existing mining leases.

Place: Ballari
Date:20-09-2019.

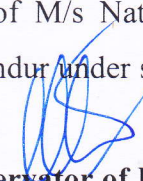
Signature: 
Name : (Lingaraja S.S)
Seal : Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari.

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

I have inspected the proposed site on 05-9-2019 and brief facts of this site inspection are as under:

- i) The density of the vegetation is falling in Eco Class-III Southern Dry Deciduous Forest.
- ii) The proposed area is having very good vegetation cover and good diversity of Flora and Fauna species. The major fauna includes leopard, sloth bear etc which also includes many endemic trees
- iii) After the joint survey, the actual proposed area has been reduced to 159.01 ha only.
- iv) About 13.58 ha hectares of the M/s. NMDC mining lease area as approved under MMDR act falls within 1 km of distance from Sri Kumaraswamy temple (Archeologically Important Site). In this regard, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued direction to the State Government to constitute a committee to examine and recommend measures with respect to restriction of the mining activities, in the portion of mining leases falling within 1 km & upto 2 Kms, of archeologically important temples / sites in Karnataka vide its order in SLP No.20180/2010.
- v) It is reported that the above user agency, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari had already issued demand notice as per the guidelines and general approval dated:31.03.2016. M/s National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur M.L.No.1111, Sandur has paid sum of Rs.12,76,85,030/- vide UTR No.SBMYR52016082302260095 dated: 22.08.2016 towards NPV amount as per Demand Notice and submitted undertaking for remitting Net Present Value (NPV) over an extent of 159.01 ha. Which is in my opinion is pre-emptive, and should have been avoided.
- vi) Though the proposed forest area is located adjoining to the already FC approved mining area, it is a fresh/virgin forest area with good canopy cover (canopy cover more than 0.5), having steep slope. Further, through tree enumeration from the sample plots (16 sample plots of 1.00 ha each), **about 2642 trees** (which needs to be cut/cleared for project). Therefore, if we extrapolate this sample plot data, over 159.01 ha project area, we would arrive **about 26000 trees** (exact number will be known only after complete total enumeration of tree) which would lead to severe soil erosion and serious environmental damages. Therefore, FC approval for mining activities in this 159.01 ha, fresh forest area would negatively affect the local Flora, Fauna and other environmental resources. Therefore, this project should not be considered for mining keeping the environmental stability of this region which is already damaged to the higher extent due to already existing mining leases.

In view of the above and based on the recommendations made by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari, and ground realities I am not recommending this proposal for seeking diversion of 159.01 ha of forest land in favour of M/s National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, ML No.1111, Donimalai, Sandur under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari.