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**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From	To
Sri Y. Madhusudhan Reddy, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests Head of Forest Force (FAC), Andhra Pradesh, Guntur - 522 004.	The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, A.P, Secretariat, Velagapudi- 522 503.

Ref.no.EFS02-15029/9/2020-FCA-SEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
Dated:22/08/2022.

Sir,

Sub APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 10.17 ha forest land in Compartment no.475 in Mundlapadu Beat, Veligonda RF of Kanigiri Range, Giddalur Division for grant of quarrying of Quartz in favour of M/s. Sree Shirdi Sai Minerals, Mg. Partner: Sri G. Venkata Subba Reddy - Proposals submission off - Reg.

Ref: 1. DMG, Ir. no.47338/R3-1/2010, dated: 04.06.2012 & 07.12.2012.
2. Online Proposal No. FP/AP/QRY/44741/2020, Dt.27.02.2020.
3. PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur Rc. no. 15029/9/2020- FCA SEC PCCF/FCA-2, dated: 26.09.2020.
4. CF, Guntur Rc. no. 320/2013-TO, dated: 31.03.2021.
5. DMG. A.P, Ibrahimpattam Ir. no. 3028/D9/2022, dt: 24.06.2022.

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It is submitted that the Director of Mines and Geology in the reference 1st cited, has forwarded the application of Sri G. Venkata Subba Reddy, Mg. Partner Sree Shirdi Sai Minerals for diversion of forest land in compartment no. 475 in Mundlapadu Beat, Veligonda RF, Giddalur Division for grant of Quartz in favour of Sree Shirdi Sai Minerals.

While forwarding the application, the DMG has furnished the following information submitted by the applicant through Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Markapur.

- The proposed area for Mining / Quarrying is located adjacent to and northern side of Ekunampuram village boundary fall in Mundalpadu beat under Veligonda Reserve Forest.
- The Quartz litho unit is the most economical one available in the area. The mineral is know as "PALUGU RAI" in Telugu. The Quartz is naturally occurring as Silicon dioxide. It has semi glassy and granular texture with brown in colour on the surface and shows milk white after removing the

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skin. Here the percentage of semi glassy Quartz is more than the granular Quartz. The deposit available here is said to be good grade and the grade of the deposit increases towards deeper levels.

- With the above information, the DMG has recommended for diversion of 10.200 ha. of forest land in compartment no. 475, of Mundlapadu Beat of Veligonda RF, Giddalur Division for grant of mining lease for Quartz in favour of Sree Shiridi Sai Minerals, Mg. Partner G. VenkataSubba Reddy
- Subsequently, in the reference 5th cited, the Director of Mines and Geology, Andhra Pradesh, Ibrahimpatnam, Krishna district **has submitted Checkslip-M information and also approved mining plan.** It is also reported that there are no applications received by the DMG, AP in the said forest area applied by Sri Shiridi Sai Minerals and application submitted by the user agency in the reference 1st cited shall holds good.

Subsequently, in the reference 2nd cited, Sri G. Venkata Subba Reddy, Mg. Partner: Sree Shiridi Sai Minerals, has uploaded proposals in the ministry's web portal for diversion of 10.17 ha. of forest land in Compartment no.475 in Mundlapadu Beat, Veligonda RF of Kanigiri Range, Giddalur Division in favour of M/s. Sree Shiridi Sai Minerals, Mg. Partner: Sri G. VenkataSubba Reddy. The proposal is registered with unique No. FP/AP/QRY/44741/2020, Dt.27.02.2020.

Accordingly, the proposal was forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur in the reference 3rd cited for processing as per the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 through the Conservator of Forests, Guntur. Subsequently, the Conservator of Forests, Guntur, in the reference 4th cited, has submitted the proposals duly processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which are as detailed below.

The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- The proposal is for diversion of 10.17 ha in compartment no. 475, Mundlapadu beat, Veligonda RF, Giddalur Division for grant of quarrying of Quartz in favour of Sree Shiridi Sai Minerals.
- The user agency has furnished justification letter stating that, the Quartz mineral is used in Glass industry as well as Ceramic Industry, Ferro Alloys. The proposed deposits in this area are having good quality of SiO₂ % and Electrical Conductivity. Further as seen from the office records it is reveals that the same quality of mineral is not available in the surrounding / outside Forest areas in terms of quantity, demand and supply. Now there is very much demand for the quartz and the demand may be doubled within next 2 to 3 years. Further, it is to submit that there are 67 mining leases are in force. Out of 67 leases only 10 leases are working and remaining are having no economical value due to depletion of deposit and low % SiO₂. Even though all these leases are working, yet they are unable to meet the domestic and foreign demands.
- The user Agency has furnished the DGPS authenticated maps for the area proposed for diversion and CA land.
- Statement showing the details of forest area involved:

Sl.No.	Purpose	Area in ha.
1	Mining area	8.43
2	Safety zone area	1.42
3	Approach road area	0.32

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Total area	10.17
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- **The User Agency has submitted the certificate under RoFR Act, 2006, as required under F (C) Act, 1980 and also obtained no objection certificate from local bodies like Gram Sabha etc.**
- The user agency has indicated the safety zone area for the proposed mining in the authenticated DGPS map. It is enclosed at Page No. 27 of the booklet.
- The User Agency has submitted undertakings to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation in identified CA land, payment of N.P.V., additional N.P.V., cost of fencing and regeneration of safety zone area, cost of afforestation over one and half time of the safety zone area in degraded forest elsewhere, as and when the demand is raised by the Forest Department, if any.
- The user agency has identified non forest land for compensatory afforestation over an extent of 11.4123 ha. (i.e. 1.4569 ha. in Sy. no. 12, 3.6827 ha in Sy. no.14 and 6.2727 ha. in Sy. no.318/1 of Vatlabayalu (V), C.S. Puram (M), Prakasham District.
- **The User Agency has identified non-forest land in Sy. no.18/2, Bodavuladinne (V), D.G. Peta, C.S. Puram, Kanigiri, Prakasham District for the purpose of dumping the Quartz mineral at a distance of 7.5 km from the proposed mining area.**
- The User Agency has stated that the employment likely to be generated due to this project, directly for 30 persons and indirectly for 100 families in mining activity and other ancillary units whenever it is required.
- The User Agency has certified that there is no violation occurred under provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- The Divisional Forest Officer has submitted an abstract of Enumeration of Tree growth and mentioned that 1684 nos. of trees are to be felled in the proposed area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has inspected the forest area involved in the project proposal on 16.12.2020. Field Inspection report of Divisional Forest Officer along with photographs is enclosed.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur has stated that the Flora observed is Cheekireni (*Albizia amara*) which is dominant species and Jaana(*Grewia-rotundifolia*), Gotika (*Ziziphus xylopyrus*), Patchari (*Dalbergia paniculata*), Pariki (*Reichardia-hexapetala*), Kalivi (*Carissa- carandas*), Kommi (*Chomelia -asiatica*), Velturu (*Dichrostachys-cinera*), Yerra Billudu (*Mundulea-sericca*) etc., and some other thorny species and there is no direct sightings happened, but the indirect signs of pellets of Wild Rabbit (*Oryctolagus-cuniculus*), Konda Gorre (*Tetracerus-quodricornis*) and Kanthi (*Bos celaphus*) has been observed and at some of the places bird nests are also seen.
- There is no impact on the ecology, especially on soil erosion in and around the proposed area due to this project.
- There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in and around the proposed area and hence stated that it is not necessary to take up mitigative measures to prevent loss of flora, fauna & soil erosion.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur has stated that non-forest area identified over an extent of 11.4123 ha. (i.e. 1.4569 ha. in Sy. no. 12, 3.6827 ha in Sy. no.14 and 6.2727 ha. in Sy. no.318/1 of Vatlabayalu (V),

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C.S. Puram (M), Prakasham District for compensatory afforestation for grant of quarrying of Quartz in favour of Sree Shiridi Sai Minerals.

- The Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur to an extent of 10.17 ha with total financial outlay of Rs.89.00 lakh for the period of 12 years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2032-33.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur has certified that the identified non-forest land to an extent of 11.4123 ha. identified in Sy. no.12, 14 & 318/1 of Vatlabayalu (V), C.S. Puram (M), Prakasam District for raising Compensatory Afforestation is in a compact block and contiguous to forest area or close proximity of forest area and is suitable from the management and protection point of view and free from all sorts of encumbrances & encroachments.
- The User Agency has not carried out any work in the proposed area and not violated the provisions of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 & Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Area proposed by the User Agency for diversion of 10.17 ha of forest land in Compartment no. 475, Mundlapadu Beat, Veligonda RF, Kanigiri Range, Giddalur Division is notified as Veligonda Reserve Forest.
- The density of vegetation is 0.2.
- The area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Corridor, Elephant Corridor etc., and also does not affect any monument of Historical, Religious, Archaeological and Recreational importance inclusive of Wildlife Sanctuary and National park.
- The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur has **Recommended** the proposal in part-II.

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has not inspected the proposed area for diversion, as the area proposed for diversion is less than 40 ha.

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has agreed with the information given in Part-II by the Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur and **Recommended** the proposal in Part-III.

The Nodal Officer (FCA), Andhra Pradesh has agreed with the information given by the DFO, Giddalur and the CCF, Guntur in Part -II and Part-III respectively and **Recommended** the proposal in Part -IV.

The user agency has submitted No objection certificate from Sree Balaji minerals for utilising the approach road applied by Sree Balaji minerals proposed mining area to outside forest area for transportation of mineral and to utilise the forest area to the barest minimum.

The proposal has been uploaded in Ministry's web portal and unique no. **FP/AP/QRY/44741/2020** generated and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed.

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In view of the above, the proposal for diversion of 10.17 ha forest land in Compartment no.475 of Veligonda RF of Mundlapadu beat, Kanigiri Range, Giddalur Division for grant of quarrying of Quartz in favour of Sree Shiridi Sai Minerals, Mg. Partner: Sri G. Venkata Subba Reddy in (4) sets along with required information and maps are submitted herewith duly recommending the proposal in Part-IV, for favour of information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,
Y Madhusudhana Reddy I/s
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
Head of Forest Force(FAC)

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests , Guntur

Copy to the Divisional Forest Officer , Giddalur for information and necessary action.

Copy to Sri G. Venkata Subba Reddy, Mg. Partner, M/s. Sree Shirdi Sai Minerals, D.no.3/848-6, YMR Colony, Proddatur, Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh for information and necessary action

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PART-IV

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

Diversion of 10.17 ha forest land in compartment no.475 in Mundlapadu Beat, Veligonda RF of Kanigiri Range, Giddalur Division for grant of quarrying of Quartz in favour of M/s. Sree Shirdisai Minerals

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks (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)	Recommended.
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Date:21/08/2022

Signature

Place : Guntur

Name:Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

Signed by Anand Kumar Jha

Date: 21-08-2022 13:05:36

Reason: Approved