

To, ✓
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) & Nodal Officer(FCA),
Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru.

Sir,

Sub:-Diversion of 22.2887 hectares (Revised from 23.863Ha.) of forest land in Swamymalai Block, Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluka, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor belt at Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine M.L.No. 2629 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd.) Bangaluru.
[PROPOSAL NO. FP/KA/MIN/48923/2020 (FORM-A)]

Ref:-1) Online proposal received from your office to DCF, Ballari on 06-11-2020.

2)Letter No.M1/MNG/KSPCL(MML)/ML No.2629/2021-22/277 dated: 1-6-2022 (received in this office on 10-6-2022) of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari.

3) This office letter even No. dated. 8-12-2022.

4) Letter No.M1/MNG/KSPCL(MML)/ML No.2629/2021-22 dt. 18-7-2023 of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari.

In light of the directions issued by your goodself having forwarded the online proposal under reference (1) cited above, you have diorected the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, for processing the same, after scrutinizing the online proposal received from the above user agency. Accordingly, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari in his letter (2) cited above, had submitted the hard copies of the proposal, duly recommending for diversion of forest land over an extent of 22.2887 hectares (Revised from 23.863Ha.) of forest land in Swamymalai Block, Sandur South Range, Sandur Taluka, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor belt at Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine M.L.No. 2629 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd.) Bangaluru.

As such, during the course of meeting convened by the undersigned with the above user agency and the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari on dt. 22-6-2022, with regard to consideration of the proposal for seeking diversion of 22.2887 hectares (Revised from 23.863Ha.). Moreover, the user agency has been directed to explore all the alternative possibilities for the establishment of pipeline conveyor belt rather than opting forest land, since the proposed forest land is steep and stream and prone for soil erosion. Similarly the user

agency had assured in the meeting to revise the proposal and to re-submit in the larger interest of conserving the forest land and the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari has been directed to submit the revised proposal and CATP duly obtaining from the user agency vide this office letter (3) cited above.

Accordingly, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari in his letter (4) cited above, has submitted the Catchment Area Treat Plan (CATP) at the cost of 0.5% of the project cost as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India vide its letter No. FC-11/43/2021-FC dt. 7-6-2022. It is reported that, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari has inspected the said area and got verified the CATP as submitted by the user agency (CATP booklet enclosed).

The salient features of the proposal are as under:

- a) It is reported that M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited (formerly known as M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited, Bangalore) was granted lease vide CI.70 MMM.2006 dated: 27.11.2007 (M.L.No.2629) w.e.f. 13.04.1999 to 12.04.2019 for a period of 20 years to an extent of 80.93 hectares for mining of iron ore. Further, the Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Karnataka has extended the lease period as per the MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015, imposing certain conditions vide No. CI-120 MMM-2016 dated: 07.02.2019. The New MMDR lease deed has been signed between lessee and the Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Bengaluru on 20.05.2019 over an extent of 80.06 hectares (as finalized by CEC) **valid up to 12.04.2049.**
- b) **Details of the Forest Clearance for the said Lease:** The user agency was given approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 80.93 ha of forest land vide letter No.8-114/92-FC dated: 20.11.2000 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, FC Division and the Government of Karnataka vide G.O. FEE 16 FFM 92, Bengaluru Dated: 28.11.2000 has also accorded FC approval co-terminus with the period of mining lease. Accordingly, the lease period of M.L.No.2629, **was expired on 12.04.2019.**

The Government of Karnataka vides G.O. No. FEE-45 FFM-2019 dated: 13.01.2020 has accorded approval for extension of FC period co-terminus with the period of mining lease in accordance with the MMDR Act, 2015 (**i.e. up to 12.04.2049**) in respect of M.L No.2629 in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited (formerly known as M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited, Bangalore).

Details of this instant proposal;

M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No. 2629) has initiated the proposal in response to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (order Dt.21.03.2017 in its WP No. 562/2009) stated that (In page No.19 & 21) ;

(x) The closed pipe downhill conveyer 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) ;*

It is reported that, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed the order Dt.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;

SI 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. 2629 (erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited) has submitted online application for diversion of 22.2887 hectares (Revised from 23.863 hectares) of forest land in Swamymalai Block, Sandur South Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District for pipeline Conveyor belt at Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine ML No.2629 in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

- (i) **Extent of Pipe Conveyor Belt proposal:** Total area of proposal is 29.5848 hectares. Out of this 7.2961 hectares comes under revenue land and 22.2887 hectares comes under forest land. The user agency has submitted the Downhill proposal for diversion **22.287 hectares** of Forest land at Swamymalai Block, Sandur South Range, Sandur for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine ML No.2629. Details of the area south are as following;

Sl. No.	Area applied for Forest Clearance	Length (meters)	Width (meters)	Area	
				(in Sqm)	(In ha)
1	Downhill Pipe Conveyor	4970.388	20	99407.786	9.9407
2	Service Road	5213.979	15	78209.688	7.8209
3	Transfer point	-	-	-	0.9974
4	Discharge Area	-	-	-	3.5297
Total					22.2887

The proposed area was situated on a ridge and is having steep slope. Hence, the proposal project may lead to high Soil erosion along the slope, impacting the entire watershed. In this regard, office of the undersigned has suggested the user Agency to prepare Catchment Area Treatment Plan(CATP) to take necessary steps to prevent soil erosion and related impact on the proposed site. Further to this, the User Agency has prepared and submitted the Catchment Area Treatment Plan(CATP) with the proposal. The same has been submitted for approval.

It is felt that the proposed width of the planned Conveyor belt (20m) and Service Roads (15m) were on higher side and thus clarification was sought from the proponent about the same (Vide letter Dt.16.04.2022). 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) (vide letter Dt.23.05.2022).

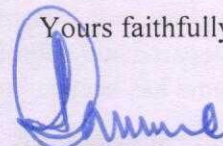
The User agency proposes to build loading point within existing lease Area for which they have to obtain approval for change in Mining Plan from concerned Authorities.

- (ii) **Net Present Value (NPV):** M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No. 2629)] has submitted an undertaking for remittance of Net Present Value (NPV) over an extent of 22.2887 hectares.
- (iii) **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** the user agency has identified C & D land at Sy.No.1251(p) of Kuduthini Village, Ballari Taluk, Ballari District over an extent of 22.2887 hectares for raising of Compensatory Afforestation. The said land has been transferred and mutated in favour of Forest Department.
- (iv) Certificate in Form-I under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, from the Deputy Commissioner is not been issued yet. In this regard, M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No. 2629)], Sandur has submitted request letter to Deputy Commissioner, Ballari vide letter Dt:05.11.2020.
- (v) It is reported that, the proposed forest land is not part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. Further, the proposed area is 19.82 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 18.81 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary. It is 12.05 km away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 10.73 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.

As per the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its W.P.No.562/2009 and guidelines issued by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the transportation of minerals needs to be made through conveyor belt to the railway sidings.

In view of the facts as categorically detailed above and while agreeing with the self contained detailed report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari, I am of the opinion that the diversion of forest land over an extent of 22.2887 ha. for construction of Conveyor belt from ML.No.2629 to their railway siding in respect of M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited, Bengaluru may be considered as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The 4 sets of proposal are enclosed herewith for your kind perusal and further needful action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,



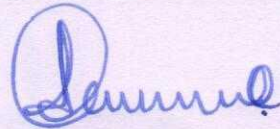
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

PART-III

(To be filled by the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests)
PROPOSAL NO. FP/KA/MIN/48923/2020

1	Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection and observations made in the form of inspection note to be enclosed.	Yes. I have inspected the proposed site on 21-6-2022. During my inspection, the user agency was directed to explore all the alternative possibilities for the establishment of pipeline conveyor belt rather than opting forest land, since the proposed forest land is steep and stream and prone for soil erosion. Similarly the user agency had assured to revise the proposal and to re-submit in the larger interest of conserving the forest land. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari after obtaining the detailed report and CATP from the user agency and submitted to this office for considering the proposal.
2	Whether the concerned 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 Part-II and the recommendation of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari.
3	Specific recommendation of concerned Conservator of Forests for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.	The diversion of forest land to an extent of 22.2887 hectares of forest land for pipeline Conveyor belt at Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine M.L.No. 2629 in favour of M/s Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited may be considered as per the provision of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Place: Bellary
Date: -7-2023


Signature: (T. Heeralal)
Seal : Chief Conservator of Forests
Ballari Circle, Ballari.