



Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd.

[Formerly Known as Mysore Minerals Limited]

(A GOVT. OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮಿನರಲ್ಸ್ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್ ಲಿ.

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)

No.KSMCL/TIOM/CB-EDS /Reply/2025-26/ 855

Date: 20.02.2026

To,
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division
Radio Park, Opp. ITI Collage
Mini Zoo Compound,
Ballari-583102

Sir,

Sub:- Diversion of 19.3044Ha. (Revised from 19.652Ha.) 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 of Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited (Orioisak BI.FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020(FROM-A)-Reg.

Ref :- (1) Your office letter No.M1/MNG/KSPCL/ML No.2605/PCB/2020-21/718 Dated:17.11.2025.
(2) Government of India letter No.F.No.4-KRC1521/2025-BAN/703 Dated:23.10.2025.

With reference to the above cited subject, we here by submitting reply for EDS raised by Government of India under ref (2) for diversion of 19.3044Ha. (Revised from 19.652Ha.) 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 of Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited.

Sl.No.	EDS Query Raised	EDS Reply
i.	The State Government is requested to submit the recommendation of PSC as per rule 9(5) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023.	The recommendation of PSC as per rule 9(5) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 is attached as Annexure -1 .
ii.	The Cost: benefit ratio has not been calculated as per the parameters/format provided in comprehensive guideline issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023. It is requested to furnish the revised C : B ratio considering the parameters/format given in the comprehensive guideline issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rule 2023.	The cost benefit ratio has been calculated as per the parameters/format provided in comprehensive guideline issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 and same has been submitted to your kind office vide letter No.KSMCL/TIOM/CB/2025-26/833 dated:10.02.2026. (Annexure - 2)

EARTH IS OUR BUSINESS

Regd. Office : T.T.M.C. 'A' Block, 5th Floor, B.M.T.C. Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027

Phone : 080-22278813/14/15/16 + Fax : 080-22213172 + Website : www.ksmcl.org

CIN : U85110KA1966SGC001620

iii.	The State Government is requested to submit the CA suitability certificate of the CA land identified.	The CA land identified for an area of 19.652 ha is part of the total CA land of 371 ha notified as Protected forest as per the Notification No. FEE79FAF2024 dated 19.07.2024. CA suitability certificate is to be furnished by your kind Office.
iv.	Number of trees enumerated for felling is on the higher side. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to explore the possibilities to reduce the number of trees to be felled.	To be furnished by your kind Office.
v.	The details of the alternatives examined is not provided. Therefore, the State Govt. is requested to submit the alternatives examined and the reason for its rejection.	Alternative alignments for the installation of conveyor belt have been examined and the shortest route with the least forest area has been selected as per the terrain of the location. The map showing the alternative along with details have been attached as Annexure – 3.
vi.	The State Government is requested to submit the justification for proposing the stock yard in the forest land. Further State Govt, is also requested to explore the possibilities to shift the stock yard to a non-forest land.	The stock yard has been proposed in the forest area only because it is adjacent to the proposed railway siding as shared by the RITES. The railway network for transportation of Iron ore through conveyor belt as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 07.12.2017 is a site specific project and therefore the stock yard cannot be shifted.
vii.	It has been informed by the DCF in Form A Part-II, that the area proposed for diversion is situated on a ridge, the proposed area is having steep slope. Hence, Soil erosion could be an issue. Therefore, User Agency may be suggested to take necessary steps to prevent soil erosion. In this regard, the user agency is requested to submit the SMC plan approved from the component authority.	Soil Moisture Conservation plan has been prepared and submitted to Principal Chief Conservator of Forest through Deputy Conservator of Forest, Ballari vide letter No.KSMCL/TIOM/CB/2025-26/833 Date-10.02.2026 for approval (Annexure - 4).
viii.	It has been informed by the DCF in Form A, Part-II, that the area proposed for diversion have rare, endangered, or unique species of flora and fauna. In view of this, the State Government is requested to obtain and submit specific comments from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) regarding the potential impact of the proposed project on these species. Further , a site-specific Wildlife Mitigation Plan may be prepared and submitted with the approval of the CWLW.	Site Specific Wild Life Mitigation/Management plan has been prepared and submitted to Chief wild life warden through Deputy Conservator of Forest, Ballari vide letter No.KSMCL/TIOM/CB/2025-26/833 Date-10.02.2026 for approval (Annexure - 5).

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully
Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited


Deputy General Manager (P)
Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine, Sandur

✓ Copy to : General Manager (P), Head Office Bengaluru for kind information