

F.No. 8-9/2000-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
F.C. Division

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Dated: 20.05.2002

To

The Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya
Mumbai-400 032.

GM (Tech.)

Sub: Diversion of 34.43 ha. of forest land for extraction of Manganese Minerals to M/s. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. in Bhandara district of Maharashtra. - *Douglas*

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FLD-3598/CR-450/ F-10 dated 17.12.1999 and PCCF, Maharashtra letters No. Nodal Cell/Desk-17(1)/2872/2000-01 dated 27.3.2001 & No. D-17/NC/I/CR.2579/2786/01-02 dated 14.3.2002 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendation of the above mentioned Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act., 1980 for diversion of 34.43 ha. of forest land for extraction of Manganese Minerals to M/s. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. in Bhandara district of Maharashtra subject to the following condition:-

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- (a) Legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.
 - (b) Penal compensatory afforestation shall be raised on double the degraded forest land at the cost of the State Forest Department.
 - (c) Lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be for 20 years w.e.f. 18.6.2001.
 - (d) The tree felling in the lease area, if any, should be resorted to only as and when required for mining/accessory activities.
 - (e) Phased reclamation plan will be implemented by the user agency at their cost.
 - (f) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
 - (g) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area will be done at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation over one and a half times of safety zone area in degraded forest elsewhere will be done at the project cost.

(h)

Demarcation of mining lease area will be done on the ground using four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with serial numbers, forward & back bearings and distance from pillar to pillar at project cost.

- (i) The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, if required.
- (j) Any other condition that the State Government or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal may impose from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests.

Yours faithfully,

(R . K . GUPTA)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forest, Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. The General Manager (Tech.), Manganese Ore (India) Ltd., 3, Mount Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
5. RO(HQ).
6. Guard file.

8-9/2000-FC

(R . K . GUPTA)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests