

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 159.01 ha Additional area over an extent of 159.01 ha
(Originally 167.63 ha) area of forest land of M/s, National Minerals
Development Corporation Limited, ML No.1111, Donimalai, Sandur,-reg.,

Ref : 1) Online Application No. FP/KA/MIN/6858/2014 Dated: 03.09.2014.

- 2) Letter No.ಸಿಆಸಂ/ಸಂದವ/ಮಿ.ಎನ್.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ-1111/2018-19 dated:14/19.01.19 of
the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari.
3) Letter dated: 20.07.2018 of M/s. National Minerals Development
Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur.

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With reference to the above subject, M/s, National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur M.L.No. 1111, has submitted an online application for diversion of additional area over an extent of 159.01 ha (Originally 167.63 ha) vide reference (1) above. The Nodal officer and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru has scrutinized and forwarded the proposal in the online portal. The user agency has submitted hard copy of the proposal vide reference (3) above.

Accordingly, this office directed the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari and Range Forest Officer, Sandur South Range to conduct field verification through Joint Survey and submit the complete proposal for diversion of forest land over an extent of 159.01 ha Additional area of M/s, National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur, M.L.No. 1111, Sandur. The Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari has submitted the report vide letter cited at reference (2) above.

Details of proposed project is as below:-

- a) **Extent of area proposed:** The user agency has initially applied for 167.63 hectares, after completion of the field verification through joint survey, the following facts were noticed.
- i) The proposed area is having very good vegetation cover and good diversity of flora and fauna species.
 - ii) After the joint survey, the actual proposed area reduced to 159.01 hectares.
 - iii) 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.

- iv) The proposed area includes 2.048 ha area for approach road which is Stage-I approved under of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited ML No.0005. (existing 'Kaccha' forest path of 3.496 km) 2.048 ha outside the NMDC lease area and 1.448 ha inside the NMDC lease area. As per the condition No.3 of Stage-I issued by MOEF&CC New Delhi dated: 11.04.2018, the M/s JSW Steel Ltd. shall share the NPV Charges with NMDC (lease No.1111) for area 1.448 ha (1.81 km) of existing 'kaccha' forest path, which falls within NMDC lease area.

- v) **Net Present Value (NPV):** This office 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 issued by this office and submitted undertaking for remittance of Net Present Value (NPV) over an extent of 159.01 hectares.

- vi) **Compensatory Afforestation (CA).**

The user agency has identified C & D land in Sy.No.295 of Appanalli Village, Gudekote Hobli, Kudligi Taluk, Ballari District over an extent of 159.01 hectares. The entire (159.01 ha) area of this survey number is not suitable for afforestation. Only 6.07 ha (3.81%) area is suitable for afforestation and the remaining areas (152.94 ha) are rocky patches located adjacent to the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and falls within the Gudekote Eco-sensitive zone. The 152.94 ha area of Sy No.295 of Appanalli is rocky patches which are not suitable for afforestation may be used as buffer zone / wildlife corridor for the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary. Therefore, the CA amount may be used for afforestation in the degraded forest area and also to improve the wildlife habitat in the Sy.No.295 of Appanalli village in Gudekote wildlife range.

- vii) Certificate in Form-I under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari. (Copy enclosed with proposal).

- viii) The proposed forest land is not part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. Further, proposed area is 23.52 km distance from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 23.54 kms distance from Eco-sensitive zone area of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 13.63 kms distance from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 9.76 kms distance from Eco-sensitive zone area of Gudekote Sloth Daroji Bear Sanctuary.

- ix) 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), we counted *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 be considered only after expiry of ore from the already FC approved existing mines areas.

In view of above facts, the proposal has been examined and submitted for necessary action under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with following documents for your kind perusal and needful.

Enclosures:

- 1) Form-A under Rule-6 of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.
- 2) Map of the proposed area with DGPS readings.
- 3) Topo-sheet 1:50000, duly marking the area proposed for diversion.
- 4) Land use plan of the diversion area.
- 5) Map showing the details of protected area in 10 km radius from the boundary of area proposed.
- 6) Bare minimum area requirement certificate.
- 7) Undertaking for payment of Additional NPV.
- 8) Undertaking for payment of Compensatory Afforestation amount and other charges.
- 9) Details of Compensatory Afforestation area.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari.

Copy submitted to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation),
Bengaluru for kind information.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari.