



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

The proposed site for diversion of 19.3044 hectares (Revised from 19.652 hectares) of forest land for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2605) in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited] was inspected personally by me on 15th July, 2021.

M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited] has submitted online application for diversion of 19.3044 hectares (Revised from 19.652 hectares) of forest land for pipeline Conveyor belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2605) in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka vide online proposal No. F-P/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A] under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Proposed stretch of land measuring 19.652 Ha falls in North Eastern (NE) Block. The Forest in the area is of Eco class-III with Southern Dry Deciduous type of Forests. The proposed area is having good vegetation with trees like *Acacia catechu*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Choloroxylon swetania*, *Soymida febrifuga* & etc. Proposed area has been temporarily demarcated on ground by rubble stones. Enumeration of the trees that need to be felled has been made. Around 1757 Nos of trees are to be felled for the proposed project.

The proposed area has steep slopes at places and following are the details of area requisitioned for various major activities that form part of the proposal. Though the project officials justify the area requirement, it is felt that the proposed width at places is more than what would be required. Further, the User agency proposes to build loading point within existing lease Area for which they need to obtain approval for change in Mining Plan from concerned Authorities.

Sl. No.	Area applied for Forest Clearance	Length (meters)	Width (meters)	Area	
				(in sq m)	(in ha)
1	Proposed Approach Road	5985.5180	15.00	89782.77	8.9783
2	Proposed Downhill Pipe Conveyor Belt	3591.5635	20.00	71831.27	7.1831
3	Stock Yard			31430.38	3.1430
Total				193044.42	19.3044

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 12.35 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 10.42 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary. It is 23.22 km away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 21.89 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.

The proposal for diversion of 19.3044 hectares of forest land for pipeline Conveyor belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine ML No.2605 in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited] is submitted for further consideration.

Dated: 15.07.2021
Place: Ballari

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

No. M1/MNG/KSPCI/ML No.2605/PCB/2020-21

Dated: 08.09.2021

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 19.3044 hectares (Revised from 19.652 hectares) of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2605) in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd.) **(Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A]) – Reg.**

- Ref:** 1) Online Application No. FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A]
2) Proposal received on 07.10.2020 from of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore (online)
3) M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited letter Dt. 28.09.2020, 13.05.2021 & 02.07.2021.
4) This office even number Letter Dt. 13.10.2020 & 03.06.2021
5) Letter No. ACF&TA/B/MML-2605/Conveyor/2020-21 Dt. 27.11.2020 & 03.06.2021 of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari.
6) This office even number Letter Dt. 11.08.2021
7) M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited letter Dt. 24.08.2021.

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With reference to the above subject, the M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd; ML No. 2605) has submitted online application for diversion of 19.3044 hectares (Revised from 19.652 hectares) of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2605) in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd) vide Application No. FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A] under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru has scrutinized and forwarded the same to the undersigned in the online portal. The user agency has submitted hard copy of the proposal to this office vide letter under Ref (3). Further, office of the undersigned had directed the user agency to submit the complete proposal for diversion of 19.3044 hectares (Revised from 19.652 hectares) of forest land in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2605) in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd). The same has been submitted by the User Agency through the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari vide letters under Ref (5).

Perusal of records submitted and upon personal visit to the proposed site on 15th July, 2021, it is observed that the user Agency has submitted the proposal for sanction of Forest Clearance for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2605 over an extent of 19.3044 hectares. The said area falls in North Eastern (NE) Block which is having

Southern Dry Deciduous Type of Forest (Eco- class III). Further, elucidated here under are the details about the Lease and the proposal;

- a) **Details of the Mining Lease:** the Commerce and Industries Department, the Government of Karnataka had accorded sanction of Mining Lease in favour of M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (original ML No. 2002) for a period 20 years with effect from 27.12.1985 to an extent of 1536 Acres (621.59 hectares). Thereafter, the Commerce and Industries Department, the Government of Karnataka has accorded sanction (vide Letter No. CI.14 MMM 2006 Dt. 17.02.2007) for renewal of Mining Lease in favour of M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No. 2002) for a period 20 years with effect from 27.12.2005 under MMDR Act, 1957 to an extent of 621.59 hectares in Thimmappanagudi Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. Further, Director, Mines & Geology Department Bangalore has executed the Lease Deed on 28.05.2009 for renewal of Mining Lease (ML No. 2605) over an area of 621.59 Ha with the Lessee for a period of 20 years w.e.f. 27.12.2005, thus making it valid up to 26.12.2025.

The Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka has accorded sanction (vide Letter No. E-CI 33 MMM 2019 Dt. 17.06.2020) for Mining Lease for an extent of **621.59 hectares** in Thimmappanagudi Village of NEB Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited; ML No. 2605 (erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited; ML No. 2002) for a period 50 years from the date of grant of such lease (i.e. upto 26.12.2035) under MMDR Act, 1957. Further, Director, Mines & Geology Department Bangalore has executed the Supplementary Mining Lease Deed on 09.07.2020 for Mining Lease (ML No. 2605) over an area of 136.94 Ha (CEC finalized area) with the Lessee. The lease period is valid up to 26.12.2035.

- b) **Details of the Forest Clearance for the said Lease:** The MoEF, Government of the India, New Delhi (vide file No. 8-28/2000-FC Dt. 18.04.2001) and Government of Karnataka vide Order No. FEE 91, FFM 97 Dt. 08.06.2001 have accorded approval for Forest Clearance under the provisions of Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Mining Lease of **78.50 hectares** in favour of M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (Mining Lease No.2002) for a period of 20 years with effect from 27.09.2000, thus making the Forest Clearance valid up to 26.09.2020.

The Government of the India, MoEF, New Delhi (vide file No. 8-28/2000-FC Dt. 05/08.11.2004) and Government of Karnataka (vide Order No. FEE 10, FFM 2003 Dt. 02.05.2005) have accorded approval for Second Forest Clearance under the provisions of Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Mining Lease of **98.224 hectares** in favour of M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (Mining Lease No.2002) for a period of co-terminus with the current lease granted under MMRD Act, 1957. The current Mining lease was granted for a period of 20 years with effect from 27.12.2005, thus making the Forest Clearance valid up to 26.12.2025.

The total area approved (Forest Clearance) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited; ML No. 2605 (erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited; ML No. 2002) is 146.964 ha. It includes Forest Clearance for 136.964 ha within mining lease and 10.00 ha FC for Approach Road outside mining lease. Further, the FC with regard to 98.224 Ha out of 136.964 ha of Mining Lease Area is

to expire on 26.12.2025 and the FC with regard to rest of 48.74 ha (78.50 ha lease area minus 29.76 ha of surrendered area) has already expired on 26.09.2020.

The Government of Karnataka (vide order No. FEE 52 FFM 2020 (e) Dt. 01.10.2020), in pursuance to the guidelines from the MoEF&CC, Govt of India has accorded approval for extension of validity of both the Forest Clearances co-terminus with the Mining Lease in respect of M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No. 2605; old ML No. 2002) over an extent of 136.94 hectares of Forest land in North Eastern (NEB) Forest at Thimmanagudi Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, thus making them valid up to 26.12.2035.

Details of this instant proposal;

M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited (ML No. 2605; old ML No. 2002) has initiated the proposal for Pipe Conveyor Belt in response to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (order Dt.21.03.2017 in its WP No. 562/2009) which states at page No. 19 & 21 that;

(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);

Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed the order Dt.13.09.2017 (at page No. 5) & 07.12.2017 (at page No.7) in its WP No. 562/2009 wherein it 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. 2605) (erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited) has submitted online application for diversion of 19.3044 hectares (Revised from 19.652 hectares) 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) in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Limited (Erstwhile Mysore Minerals Ltd) FP/KA/MIN/47146/2020 [FORM-A] under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(i) **Extent of Pipe Conveyor Belt proposal:** Total area of proposal is 20.0224 hectares. Out of this 0.7180 hectares comes under revenue land and 19.3044 hectares comes under forest land. The user agency has submitted the Downhill proposal for diversion **19.3044 hectares** of Forest land at North Eastern Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine ML No.2605. Details of the area south are as following;

Sl. No.	Area applied for Forest Clearance	Length (meters)	Width (meters)	Area	
				(in sq m)	(in ha)
1	Proposed Approach Road	5985.518	15.00	89782.77	8.9783
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3	Stock Yard			31430.38	3.1430
Total				193044.42	19.3044

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/UA about the same (Vide letter Dt. 11.08.2021). Giving the details of dimensions/width required for various components of the said project, the proponents/User Agency has justified the planned width of Conveyor Belt (20m) and Service Roads (15m) (vide letter Dt. 21.08.2021). Further, 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. 2605; old ML No. 2002) has submitted an undertaking for remittance of Net Present Value (NPV) over an extent of 19.3044 hectares.
- (iii) **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** As per Clarification in Para No. 2.4 (i) of Chapter No.2 of Handbook of Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the user agency has identified C & D land at Sy. No.1251(p) of Kuduthini Village, Ballari Taluk, Ballari District over an extent of 38.6088 hectares (double in extent of diversion - 19.3044 ha X 2) 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. 2605; old ML No. 2002), Sandur has submitted request letter to Deputy Commissioner, Ballari vide letter Dt:28.09.2020.
- (v) 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 12.35 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 10.42 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary. It is 23.22 km away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 21.89 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.

The proposal for diversion of 19.3044 hectare of forest land for Pipe Conveyor Belt at Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2605) in North Eastern (NE) Block, Sandur North Range, Sandur taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka in favour of M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited] is submitted for further consideration and needful action.

Yours Faithfully,
Sd/-

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari

- 1) Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bengaluru for kind information.
- 2) Copy to the M/s. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited [erstwhile M/s. Mysore Minerals Limited, Thimmappanagudi Iron Ore Mine ML No.2605, Sandur] for information.

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari