

File No. 8-17/1994-FC (Vol)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj New Delhi-110003
Dated:03-10-2025

To

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhanam) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.4314 ha. of forest land in Deogiri Swamimalai Forest Block in Sandur Taluk, Bellary District for establishing Downhill Conveyor System (DCS) from Kammathuru Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2678 Old No. 2580/1179) to PMBR (BMM) siding in favour of M/s. Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores Ltd (SMIORE), Lakshmipur, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/OTHERS/31165/2018).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. No. FEE 47 FFM 2018 dated 16/02/2019 and No. A5(1). MISC.CR-4/2018-19 and E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5- 1(MISC)/10/2018-FC dated 11.07.2019 seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in respect of the above project. The in-principle (Stage-1) approval to the project was accorded by the Central Government vide letter dated 15.10.2019. The State Government has reported compliance to the conditions stipulated by the Central Government in the in-principle approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. letter No. FEE 47 FFM 2018 dated 27.03.2025 and additional information submitted vide letter No. FEE 47 FFM 2018 dated 29.07.2025, the final' approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 is hereby grated for diversion of 2.4314 ha. of forest land in Deogiri Swamimalai Forest Block in Sandur Taluk, Bellary District for establishing Downhill Conveyor Pipe System (DCS) from Kammathuru Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2678 Old No. 2580/1179) to PMBR (BMM) siding in favour of M/s. Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores Ltd (SMIORE), Lakshmipur, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over by the user agency;
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Compensatory afforestation over the non-forest land already notified vide notification no. FEE 171 FAF 2024 dated 25.03.2025 equal in extent to the forest land being diverted shall be raised within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency;
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo-sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- v. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect,
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- vii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector,
- ix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall raise strip plantation on both sides of conveyor belt;
- x. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- xi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land,
- xiii. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xiv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xv. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
- xvi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xviii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per para 1.16 of consolidated Guidelines issued vide this Ministry's F. No.5-2/2017-FC (pt) dated 29.12.2023.

- xix. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xx. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxi. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 15.10.2019 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests.

Copy To

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. DDGF (C) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru-
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (VSESA), 1980, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.