

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

Letter No.1862/Section-II/2023/2189844

Dated 03.01.2024

From  
The Special Chief Secretary to Government,  
EFS & T Department,  
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,  
Amaravati-522503.

To  
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Sub-office of the Regional Office (Chennai),  
Green House Complex,  
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada-520010 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 16.39 ha forest land in compartment No.750 of Tadepalli PF, D.Velamalakota Beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o.Tadepalli (V) Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd.- Forest Clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: 1)Online proposal No.FP/AP/QRV/141630/2021, dated 12.04.2021.  
2)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15/02/2018- FCA-SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dated 17.08.2023.  
3)Govt.Memo.No.1862/Sec.II/2023/2189894, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated 14.09.2023.  
4)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15/02/2018-FCA-SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dated 20.11.2023.  
5)Govt.Memo.No.1862/Sec.II/2023/2189894, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated 05.12.2023.  
6) From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15/02/2018-FCA-SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dated 06.12.2023.

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I am to inform that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., in the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, has furnished statutory proforma proposal and online application No.FP/AP/QRV/141630/2021, dated 12.04.2021, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above-mentioned project.

2. In this regard, the PCCF & HoFF has stated that the Director of Mines and Geology has forwarded the application of President, Rajiv Tribal Quarry Labour contract Co-operative Society Ltd., for grant of quarry lease for Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd. The DMG has furnished the following information submitted by the applicant through Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Rajamahendravaram.

- In Andhra Pradesh, laterite is available in East Godavari District and Visakhapatnam District only. There are huge quantities of untapped laterite mineral wealth is available in the Reserve Forest area especially in Maredumilli, Prathipadu, Sankhavaram and Rowthulapudi Mandals.
- The quarry lease area is falling in protected forest areas in Thotapalli PF, Compartment No.750, Tadepalli PF, D. Velamalakota beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range, East Godavari District.

[Contd..P2]



- There are (08) existing leases in forest land in compartment No.703 of Girijanapuram RF & 589 of Lingamparthi RF in Yeleswaram Range. They are extracted Laterite approximately 20 lakh Metric Tonnes per year from their 08 quarry leases. All the existing leases in the Forest land are worked as per the norms stipulated by the Forest Department and the Mines and Geology Department. After 03 to 04 years the mineral Laterite may be exhausted in the Forest leases. There is need to grant the Laterite leases in Forest lands to meet the needs of the Cement Industry in future.

3. The PCCF & HoFF, has further stated that President, Rajiv Tribal Quarry Labour contract Co-operative Society Ltd., has uploaded proposals in the Ministry's web portal for diversion of 16.39 ha of forest land in compartment No.750 of Tadepalli PF, D.Velamalakota Beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o.Tadepalli (V) Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd. The proposal is registered with unique No.FP/AP/QRY/141630/2021, dated: 21.04.2021. Accordingly, the proposals were forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram for processing as per the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 through the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle, Rajamahendravaram. Subsequently, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry, has submitted the proposals duly processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which are as detailed below.

i) The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- The proposal is for diversion of 16.39 ha of forest land in compartment No.750 of Tadepalli PF, D.Velamalakota Beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o.Tadepalli (V) Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd.
- The user agency has furnished justification letter stating that, the laterite mineral is found in the forest area i.e. Tadepalli PF situated in Rampachodavaram Division, Alluri Sitarama Raju District is having abundant reserves for possess good quality of Laterite. There is no other area having laterite reserves are available in the nearest vicinity. Therefore, we have applied for mining of Laterite in the forest area.
- The user Agency has furnished the DGPS authenticated maps for the area proposed for diversion and CA land.
- Statement showing the details of forest area involved:

Sl.No	Purpose	Area in ha.
1	Mining area	14.89
2	Safety zone area	1.44
3	Approach road area	0.06
	Total area	16.39

- The User Agency has submitted the certificate under RoFR Act, 2006, as required under F(C) Act, 1980 and also obtained no objection certificated from local bodies like Gram Sabha etc.
- The User Agency has indicated the safety zone area for the proposed mining in the authenticated DGPS map. It is enclosed at Page No.139 of the booklet.
- The User Agency has submitted undertakings to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and identified CA land, payment of NPV, additional NPV, cost of fencing and regeneration of safety zone area, cost of afforestation over one and half time of the safety zone area in degraded forest elsewhere, as and when the demand is raised by the Forest Department, if any.

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- The user agency has identified non-forest land for compensatory afforestation over an extent of 17.81 ha in Sy. No. 13-2A (9.71 ha), Sy. No. 13-2B (4.05 ha) and Sy. No. 13-2C (4.05 ha) of Tadikonda village of Y. Ramavaram mandal, ASR District. Further, the identified CA land is an enclosure.
- The User Agency has submitted that almost 200 to 250 persons can be employed throughout the mining period.
- The User Agency has certified that there is no violation occurred under provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- The User Agency has furnished modified mining plan approved by the Deputy Director of Mines and Geology, Kakinada in letter No. 3498/Laterite/2022, dated:02.08.2023. The modified approved mining plan has been uploaded at Nodal Officer level.

ii) The Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- The density of vegetation is 0.40 to 0.50.
- The areas are prone to soil erosion, due to their being gentle to moderate slopes. SMC measures like constructing CCTs is required in the vicinity.
- 40 No. of trees to be felled in the area proposed for diversion.
- The User Agency has not carried out any work in the proposed area and not violated the provisions of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The area proposed for diversion does not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Corridor, Elephant Corridor etc., and also does not affect any monument of Historical, Religious, Archaeological and Recreational importance inclusive of Wildlife Sanctuary and National park.
- The proposed forest land for diversion is located at aerial distance of 16.44 kms from Papikonda National Park and 6.44 kms away from default Eco-Sensitive Zone area.
- The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.

4. The PCCF & HoFF, has stated that the Divisional Forest Officer has inspected area proposed for diversion on 26.06.2023 and stated that, the forest type is dry mixed deciduous forests (5A/C3) and sub type is Mixed Forest. The proposed area is mostly covered with the dominating species of seedlings, saplings and young plants about 3 meters tall and trees including poles and bajus like Konda Thangedu -Xylia xylocarpa, Adavi Mamidi- Spondias pinnata, Billudu- Chloroxylon swietenia etc. Due to the constant movement of human beings and vehicles, did not see any animal movement during the inspection. However, for protection of Wildlife against the mining operations, taking up of safety measures as a precaution is very much essential. Erection of Chainlink mesh of suitable gauge to a height of 2.00 mts around the safety zone area prevents entry of the wildlife into the proposed mining area thus the possible damage if any to the wildlife can be avoided.

5. The PCCF & HoFF, has further stated that the subject proposal pertaining to forest area over an extent of 16.39 in Tadepalli, RF, Compt.No.750 of Maddiveedu Village, Mareduillil Mandal, ASR District falls in scheduled area. The native of the applicant (i.e. Sri Andala Somi Reddy) at D.no.#1-153, Thadepalli locality/Land mark of Thadepalli village/Town of Mareduilli Mandal belongs to Kondareddis (ST) community /Caste which is recognized as Scheduled Tribe under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950, SCs, STs List (Modification order 1956 and STS (Amendment) Act, 1973 amended from time to time. The proposal has been examined as per Samatha Judgement issued by Supreme Court of India dt.11.07.1997. Copy of the Caste Certificate issued by the Tahsildar, Mareduilli has been uploaded at Nodal Officer level.



6. As per para 2.3 of Chapter-2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF & CC, New Delhi in letter F.No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the user agency has identified non-forest land over an extent of 17.81 ha in Sy.No.13-2A (9.71 ha), Sy.No.13-28 (4.05 ha) and Sy.No.13-2C( 4.05 ha) of Tadikonda Village of Y.Ramavaram Mandal, ASR District for compensatory afforestation purpose. The non-forest land identified for compensatory afforestation purpose is an enclosure in Kota RF in the middle of the Reserve. The crown density is 0.6 and contains very good regeneration and all tree growth is natural and luxuriant growth of trees such as Konda tangedu- *Xylia xylocarpa*, Rewadi-Dilenia *Pentagyna*, Yegisa-*Pterocarpus marsupium* etc., there is no possibility to take up plantation in the CA area. Hence, the Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram has identified degraded forest land over an extent of 16.39 ha in compartment No. 530, Rajavommangi Range.
7. Further, as per para 2.8 of Chapter 2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF & CC, New Delhi in letter F.No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram has prepared compensatory afforestation scheme to an extent of 16.39 ha with a financial outlay of Rs. 97,06,500/- for a period of 12 years including Advance operations, Maintenance of Nurseries and Raising of Plantations commencement from 2023-24 to 2034-35. Site inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram has uploaded. The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps of degraded forest area are furnished with the proposal.
8. As per para 2.6 (ii) of comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MOEF & CC, New Delhi in f. No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, degraded forest land for afforestation measuring one and half time the area of forest land under safety zone has been identified to an extent of 2.16 ha in compartment No.530, Rajavommangi RF and Range, Rampachodavaram Division. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram has prepared CA scheme with a financial outlay of Rs.10.488 lakh for a period from 2023-24 to 2034-35 with 10 years maintenance. Copy of the map along with CA Scheme is enclosed herewith.
9. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram has Recommended the proposal in part-II subject to certain conditions stipulated therein. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle, Rajamahendravaram has agreed with the information given in Part-II by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram and Recommended the proposal in Part-III. The Nodal Officer(FCA), Andhra Pradesh, have recommended the proposal for diversion of 16.39 ha of forest land in compartment No.750 of Tadepalli PF, D.Velamalakota Beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o.Tadepalli (V) Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd
10. In the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, Guntur, has been requested to examine the modified approved mining plan and furnish a detailed report for further processing of the proposal.
11. In the reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited, the PCCF & HoFF has simply forwarded a revised approved mining plan (partial modification in the introduction part of the mining plan) without examination and remarks for taking necessary action in the matter. Hence, the PCCF & HoFF has been requested to examine the revised modified approved mining plan and offer his remarks for further processing of the proposal vide in the reference 5<sup>th</sup> cited.
12. In the reference 6<sup>th</sup> cited, the PCCF & HoFF has stated that modified approved mining plan furnished by the User Agency through CCF/CF, Rajahmundry has been examined with reference to the applied forest area proposed for diversion of 16.39 ha of forest land in compartment No. 750 of Tadepalli RF, D.Velamalakota Beat, Seethapalli



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Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o. Tadepalli (V) Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd and it is found that applied forest area over an extent of 16.39 ha authenticated by the Forest Department is in conformity with the areas mentioned in the approved mining plan.

13. The PCCF & HoFF, has requested to take necessary action for onward submission of the proposal to Government of India, MoEF &CC, IRO, Vijayawada for according forest clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

14. I enclose herewith the copies of the references 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> cited together with its enclosures and the recommendation of State Government (Part-V) with a request to place the proposal before the REC, GoI, MoEF&CC, RO, Chennai for its consideration and accord stage-I approval under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, for diversion of 16.39 ha of forest land compartment No.750 of Tadepalli PF, D.Velamakota Beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o. Tadepalli (V) Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd.

Yours faithfully,

  
for Special Chief Secretary to Government

**Copy to:**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,  
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri for information.

The President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S.Ltd., D.No.1-153, Peddaveedhi, Tadepalli,  
Maredumilli Mandal, East Godavari District – 533295 for information.

**PART-V**

Proposal for diversion of 16.39 ha forest land in compartment No.750 of Tadepalli PF, D.Velamalakota Beat, Seethapalli Section, Sudikonda Range and Sy.No.37 & 38 of Maddiveedu, H/o.Tadepalli (V), Maredumilli (M), Rampachodavaram Division for quarrying of Laterite in favour of President, Rajiv Tribal Q.L.C.C.S. Ltd.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature



Name & Designation (S. SRISARAVANAN)

Special Secretary to Government,

Official Seal  
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,

A. P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,

Amaravati-522503

Date: 03-01-2024

Place: AMARAVATI