

**F. No. 8-14/2018-FC**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Karnataka,  
Bangalore.

**Sub: Diversion of 32.56 hectare [revised from 33.80 hectare] of forest land for iron ore mining [erstwhile 'C' category M.L. No. 2621 of M/s. Rama Rao Poal] allocated through auction sale to M/s. JSW Steel Ltd., Toranagallu in Ramanamalai Block Reserve Forest, Sandur North Range, Ballari District, Karnataka.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 6 FFM 2018 dated 24/01/2018 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), ***In-principle/Stage-I*** approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 27.07.2017 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Karnataka vide their letter No. FEE 06 FFM 2018 dated 22.10.2019, ***Stage-II/Final approval*** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 32.56 hectare [revised from 33.80 hectare] of forest land for iron ore mining [erstwhile 'C' category M.L. No. 2621 of M/s. Rama Rao Poal] allocated through auction sale to M/s. JSW Steel Ltd., Toranagallu in Ramanamalai Block Reserve Forest, Sandur North Range, Ballari District, Karnataka subject to following conditions:

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

  
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- (ii) Compensatory afforestation and Soil & Moisture Conservation works (SMC) such as check dam, gully checks, retaining wall etc. over the identified non-forest land shall be taken up as per approved plan/scheme by the Forest Department from the funds received by the user agency within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
- (iii) The identified non-forest land for the purpose of compensatory afforestation shall be declared as Reserved Forest under Section-4 or Protected Forest under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the State Forest Act. immediately, if not already done;
- (iv) The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- (vi) The user agency may use the existing road as diverted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Zeenat Transport Company;
- (vii) State Govt. shall ensure that the approved Wildlife Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan shall be implemented by the State Forest Department from the funds provided by the user agency;
- (viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area shall be done within three years at the project cost from the issue of approval. Besides this afforestation on identified degraded forest land in lieu of one & a half times of the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost within three years from the date of approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan;
- (ix) The State Govt. shall ensure that User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall implement gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- (x) The Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the MMDR Amendment Act,2015, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
- (xi) The State Govt. may note that this Ministry will not be liable to pay any compensation or refund compensatory levies deposited in CAMPA fund to the erstwhile lease holder in category "C" mine;
- (xii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall carry out mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest

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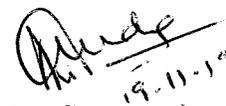
(Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Dy. Director General (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;

- (xiii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall implement the R&R Plan as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/concern Regional Office of MoEF &CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
- (xiv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Birds nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.
- (xv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- (xvi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (xvii) The State Govt. shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xviii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- (xx) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xxi) The State Govt. ensure that the State Forest Department shall implement approved plan/scheme for regularly desilting of identified village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies.

  
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- (xxii) The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the annual self - compliance report in respect of the above conditions shall be submitted to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year;
- (xxiii) The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xxiv) The State Govt. and the user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and National Green Tribunal Order(s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,



**(Brijendra Swaroop)**

Dy. Inspector General of Forest-cum-  
Dy. CEO, CAMPA

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.