

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN DEEMED FOREST LAND

- As per the Meghalaya State Forest Report, 2009 released by the Forest Survey of India, more than 77% of the land area of Meghalaya falls in the category of forest. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 12.12.1996, most of the area on the basis of vegetation density comes under the category of deemed forest land. Under this situation the industries to be setup in the State outside the industrial parks will have to be necessarily located in the deemed forest area.
- The Central Government in the year 1997 declared the North-Eastern Industrial Policy which was further reviewed in 2007. Its main thrust is to encourage industries in rural areas and more so the mineral based industries. Meghalaya is endowed with mineral of commercial value like limestone and coal. Therefore for cement production the mining lease of limestone is the basic necessity. Since the applicant has already acquired the necessary environment clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 to set up an integrated cement plant of 0.86 million tonnes per annum capacity at village Nongsning in Jaintia Hill district. Hence it is justified to accord permission to grant forest clearance of 6.55 ha. deemed forest land to grant a Mining Lease over 4.89 ha area as a captive limestone mine.
- Keeping in view the above fact, the State govt. Department of Mining and Geology has granted LOI for a Mining Lease over an area of 4.89 ha. vide its order dated 12.03.2012.
- As per the map of Jaintia Hills under District Planning Map Series published by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in 2003 shows that the land in question is fallow land or scrub land and there is no forest, cave and monuments etc. in the area.
- Like other minerals limestone mine is also a site specific project therefore it has to be set up in respect of land which contains adequate reserve of mineral along with the proper grade acceptable to manufacture the product. In the present case cement has to be manufactured therefore good quality limestone is required. On the basis of

available data the limestone from proposed deemed forest land is suitable to make good quality cement.

- As already mentioned hereinabove that 77% land of the State being classified forest land whereas rest major part being deemed forest or unclassified forest land. Therefore for economic and developmental activities the requirement of forest land of any category has become absolutely essential and fully justified to establish its *inescapability* for locating the said limestone mine project in deemed forest land.
- It is pointed out that the user agency has already setup a cement plant of 0.86 million tonnes per annum capacity in the State and does not hold any mining lease of limestone in its name. Limestone as a raw material is being procured from open market purchase as such the applicant company has no existing mining lease in the State. It has therefore become fully justified and necessary of opening new mining lease of limestone to sustain the existing cement plant which has not come up at its full capacity due to shortage and assured supply of limestone.
- In the current scenario, the infrastructure development is one of the leading industry for any type of industrial, commercial, domestic activities and cement being the basic commodity in the development all above. The user agency has already set up a cement plant in the State which is the core industry and its demand is strongly linked in terms of material flow, income and employment generation thus for the over all economy of the region and the entire nation. Long term prospect of cement industry in terms of its demand and production has been growing and its prediction for next decade is quite promising.
- The main raw material for cement production is limestone which will be available from the present area of 4.89 ha. in question. The limestone mine is quite close to the cement plant which is required for captive purpose with no sale of limestone in open market. However the said mine is justified to be located in deemed forest land thus it is a logical demand to run the said mine in the interest of industrial and economic development of the local rural area which does not have any opportunity of employment. The project will open new fields of employment generation and the entire region would be upgraded in terms of culture and social upliftment.

- After the end of mining activities, nearly 9,780 trees will be planted @2000 saplings per hectare on account of which the ecological status of the area at post mining stage will be in much better scenario than the present position.

Yours faithfully,

For Green Valliey Industries Ltd.

Place: Jowai, Meghalaya

Date: 14.12.2017

Green Valliey Industries Limited



Authorised Signatory

(Anil Kumar)

Authorized Signatory