

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

Letter No.805/Section-II/2023/2068735

Dated:15.05.2023

From

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

To

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

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 2.03 ha of forest land falling in Compartment no.594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite in favour of the Proprietor: M/s. Rama Minerals, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District - Forest Clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.no.EFS02-15029/8/2018-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dt.20.04.2023.

I inform that in the reference cited the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has stated that the Director of Mines and Geology, Andhra Pradesh, Ibrahimpatnam vide letter dt.12.03.2018 has forwarded proposal for diversion of 2.03 ha of forest land falling in Compartment no.594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite in favour of the Proprietor: M/s. Rama Minerals, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District and furnished the following information:

1. The Steatite and Dolomite mineral available in Mutchukota RF has its own technical specificity and has extensive industrial importance and this kind of mineral is nowhere available in the entire State of Andhra Pradesh nor in Southern India either in non-forest land or forest areas.
 2. It is a fresh grant of quarry lease.
 3. Approach road is existing for the past 100 years which leads to Tabujula and it starts from Tadipatri to Mutchukota forest on the Tadipatri-Ananthapuramu BT road upto a distance of about 18 km from Tadipatri and from their taking right diversion towards north on the existing cart track at a distance of 3 km leads to the applied area where the adjoining leases are existing and are using the same road for approachability and transport of the mineral. Further, stated that the present applied area is adjoining the existing road there is no need for further road construction.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has further stated that Smt.B.Ramadevi, Proprietrix, M/s. Rama Minerals, Ananthapuramu has initiated a proposal in the PARIVESH portal on 06.02.2022 for diversion of 2.03 ha of forest land falling in Compartment no.594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite. The proposal has been registered with unique proposal no.FP/AP/QRY/152052/2022. The proposal was forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu on 29.04.2022 in the PARIVESH portal for processing the proposal as per the Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 and the guidelines issued by GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ananthapuramu Circle, Ananthapuramu, has processed the proposal and submitted Part-II & III information. The details of the proposal are as follows:

i) The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- For locating the project in forest area, the User Agency has justified that, application has been filed for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite as two minerals are associated minerals. In India Steatite is rare mineral available in two States i.e., Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Even in Andhra Pradesh good quality of Steatite & Dolomite with good chemical specification is scarcely available and hence there is no alternative except to locate the project in the forest area to the barest minimum extent possible. Hence, disturbance to forest area is very minimal with almost no loss of trees. Further, she has justified that the available Steatite and Dolomite deposits in the subject area is of high quality. The quality of high grade Steatite mineral available in the proposed forest area, is not available sufficiently outside the forest area. The high grade Steatite available here has its own applications in paper, paints, plastic, detergents, rubber, pharmaceuticals, ceramics etc and it has much demand in the present industry. The present demand will not only meet market demand but also generate employment to the surrounding local villagers. Hence, it is essential to grant mining lease for Steatite and Dolomite in the interest of mineral development and industrial requirements.
- The user Agency has furnished the DGPS authenticated maps for the area proposed for diversion and CA land respectively.

Statement showing the details of forest area involved:

Area Statement:

Sl.no.	Purpose	Area in ha.
1	Mining area	1.48
2	Safety zone area	0.55
	Total:	2.03

- There will be no displacement of people due to this project.
- The User Agency has submitted that the employment likely to be generated due to this project is 30 number of persons (Permanent) and 10,000 number of person-days (Temporary)
- The user agency has indicated the safety zone area inside the mining lease area for the proposed mining project separately in the authenticated DGPS map.
- The User Agency has submitted undertakings to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation in the identified CA land, payment of N.P.V., cost of tree extraction charges as decided by the Forest Department. And also to bear the cost of protection and regeneration of safety zone area and also to bear cost of afforestation the degraded forest land one and half times of forest area under safety zone.
- The user agency has identified non-forest land over an extent of 2.15 ha in two Bits (Bit-1 – 0.75 ha and Bit-2 – 1.40 ha) ha in Sy.no.582-4, 582-5 and 584 of Godduvelagala Village, Gandalapenta Mandal, Ananthapuramu Division, Sri Satya Sai District, for compensatory afforestation purpose.
- RoFR certificate in Form-III as prescribed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, issued by the District Collector, Ananthapuramu.
- Mining plan approved by the Deputy Director of Mines & Geology (FAC), Ananthapuramu in Lr.no.692/MP-TDP/2022, dt.20.05.2022.

ii) The District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu has furnished the following information in part-II:

- Site inspection was conducted by the DFO, Ananthapuramu on 02.06.2022.
- Area of the forest land proposed for diversion is as follows.

Area statement:-

Sl.no.	Purpose	Area in ha.
1	Mining	0.81
2	Dumping	0.30
3	Area for stock yard	0.10
4	Area for internal roads	0.15
5	Area of Temporary shed/Magazine	0.02
6	Area for plantation	0.10
7	Area for safety zone	0.55
	Total:-	2.03

- Mutchukota RF was notified as RF under Section 16 of Madras Forest Act, dt.20.08.1895.
- Density of vegetation is 0.1 to 0.2 (Eco-Class-III – Open Forest).
- 850 nos. trees to be felled in the proposed diversion area.
- Florae existing in the proposed diversion area are *Hardwickia binate* (Narepi), *Grewiarotundi folia* (Jana), *Terminalia arjuna* (Maddi), *Anogeissus latifolia* (Chirumaanu), *Morindacitri folia* (Maddichekka), *Acacia planifrons* etc.
- The RF area proposed is vulnerable to erosion.
- The proposed quarry lease area is at a distance of 2.00 km from RF boundary.
- The proposed area for diversion does not form part of National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve and elephant corridor etc.,
- There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the proposed diversion area.
- There are no protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishments or any other important monuments are located in the area.
- The forest land required for diversion is the barest minimum.
- No violations were taken place in the proposed quarry lease area.
- The user agency has identified non-forest land over an extent of 2.15 ha in two bits (Bit-1 – 0.75 ha and Bit-2 – 1.40 ha) in Sy.nos.582-4, 582-5 and 584 of Godduvelagala Village, Gundlapental Mandal, Ananthapuram Division, Sri Satyasai District. The CA area is adjacent to Compartment no.97 of Godduvelagala RF, Kadiri Range, Ananthapuramu Division.
- Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been prepared with an outlay of 21.150 lakh for raising plantations over an extent of 1.50 ha for period of 12 years from 2023- 24 to 2034-35.
- Scheme for fencing, protection, regeneration of safety zone area and for raising and maintenance of enrichment plantation over an extent of 0.830 ha in degraded forest area in Compartment no.632, Molakathall RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division in lieu of safety zone area of 0.55 ha, has been prepared with an outlay of Rs.3.60 lakh.
- NPV to be charged based on surface strain predicted by 3-D subsidence prediction model (more than 20 mm/m). Accordingly, NPV is calculated as Rs. 19.44293 lakh (2.03 X 9.57780).

3. Regarding road to be utilized by the user agency for transportation of mineral from the mining site, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has stated that the District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu has submitted that, the proposed mining area is situated towards north-west of Mutchukota Village and it is adjacent to the existing road having a width of 5.5 m. (6 yards) connects from Tabjula Village to Ananthapuramu-Tadipatri main road passing through Mutchukota RF i.e., starting point is 14.85599, 77.82866 and ending point is 14.82716 & 77.84449 (4.40 km). The User Agency has furnished Survey of India map of the year 1976, based on the survey of 1970. This map shows the existence of the proposed road depicting Tabjula to Ananthapur-Tadipatri i.e., BT road existing prior to 1980. Further, the User Agency has stated that, mining is existing in this area since the Second world War i.e., between 1939-1945 and mining leases area also mentioned in the report of Sri R.N.Prasad & E.B.Prasannan, Geologist (Jr), Geological Survey of India in September, 1970.

4. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has stated that the District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu has submitted that, the proposed Tabjula-BT road is not mentioned in the Gazette notification. However, a reference can be seen about a forest road in Gazette notification in "the cart track from Ananthapuramu-Tadipatri road near Nagireddivanikunta to Julakava". This cart track 6 yards wide branches from Ananthapur-Tadipatri road near Nagireddivanikunta runs west for nearly 6 furlongs and joins the existing forest road inside RF. This existing forest road however was not mentioned in the Gazette notification. This Tabjula-BT road is running along the compartment boundaries. In fact this road acts as compartment boundary between Compt.nos.594-591, 594-592, 594-593 and 590-591 of Mutchukota RF of Gooty Range. The District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu has submitted that, two more additional admitted RoWs are also adjacent to the proposed mining area;

1. Nayanipalli-Tabjula Road:

The existence of this road is mentioned in the Gazette notification in page no.6 of Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) 13th July, 1895, Forest No.431, extract of Gazette notification. This Nayanipalli-Tabjula road adjoins the proposed mining area, hence mined material can also be transported upto Nanyipalli where it connects Ananthapur – Tadpatri road.

2. Muddalapalli to Tabjula Road:

Clami no 254 of Page 61 of Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) 13th July 1895, Forest No.431: This road also adjoins to the proposed mining area, hence the mined material can also be transported upto Muddanapalli where it connects to Ananthapur to Tadipatri road.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has stated that in view of the above, the District Forest Officer has submitted that, the User Agency can transport the mined minerals through admitted RoWs either towards south leading to Ananthapuramu-Tadipatri road (through Nanyanapalli or Muddalapalli) or towards north leading to the Tabjula. The District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu has submitted that, all the existing mining lease holders i.e., M/s Sreenivasa Minerals, M/s White Field Minerals, M/s AVSR Minerals and M/s Sri Nagalingeswara Mines & Minerals sanctioned by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi are utilizing the forest road from Tabjula to BT road for transportation of mined materials.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has also stated that the District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu has recommended the proposal in part-II. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ananthapuramu Circle, Ananthapuramu has agreed with the information given in part-II by the District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu and also recommended the proposal in part-III. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer, has recommended the proposal in Part-IV.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has stated that, the existing road claimed for usage of transporting by the present User Agency is the forest road formed prior to 1980, which is also being used by the other existing mining owners M/s Sreenivasa Minerals, M/s White Field Minerals, M/s AVSR Minerals and M/s Sri Nagalingeswara Mines & Minerals sanctioned by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi as reported by the DFO, Anantapur, following additional conditions may be imposed by the Government of India in Stage-I approval subject to compliance of these additional conditions by existing mining leases in cluster also in this RF in addition to the present proposal, in the interest of revenue to the State Forest Department as was done earlier in case of cluster mining in favour of 8 different applicants in East Godavari district in G.O.Ms.no.63, EFS&T (For.I) Dept, dt.24.07.2013.

- i. User charges equivalent to the cost of permit charges at Rs.10/- per metric tons as fixed by the State Government in G.O.Ms.No.35, EFS&T (For.I) Department, Dated.6-2-2010 for the permits issued for transportation of Steatite and Dolomite on quarterly basis shall be paid through DD in favour of the District Forest Officer, Ananthapuramu for using the existing forest road.

- ii. Administrative cost at the rate of Rs.10/- per metric tonne of steatite and dolomite transported shall be paid by the User Agency on quarterly basis for meeting the administrative expenses like maintenance of records, conveyance and communication charges, supervision and monitoring charges etc. to the District Forest Officer, Anantapur:

8. I enclose the statutory proforma proposal received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force duly recommending in Part-V and request you to obtain and communicate the approval of competent authority for diversion of 2.03 ha of forest land falling in Compartment no.594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite in favour of the Proprietor: M/s. Rama Minerals, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District, and also request you that the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, may be requested to impose one of the condition in Stage-I approval i.e., the User Agency shall deposit Rs.2.50 lakh per hectare to ensure reclamation of mined area once the mines are exhausted for minerals.

Yours faithfully,


for Special Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri.
M/s Rama Minerals, B7, Bikkala Ramadevi, #16/819/2/1, Nandalapadu,
Tadipatri Town, Ananthapuramu-515411

PART-V

Proposal for diversion of 2.03 ha of forest land falling in Compartment no.594, Mutchukota RF, Gooty Range, Ananthapuramu Division for grant of quarry lease for Steatite and Dolomite in favour of the Proprietor: M/s. Rama Minerals, Tadipatri, Ananthapuramu District.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature

Name & Designation: K. GOPINATHA

Official Seal
Special Secretary to Government,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
A. P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,
Amaravati-522503

Date: 15-05-2023

Place: AMARAVATI