

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

Letter No.1072/Section.II/2023/2093061

Dated:15.06.2023.

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 4.41 ha forest land for extraction of Quartz and Feldspar in compartment no.122, Chaganam RF Venkatagiri Range, Nellore Division in favour of M/s. Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd - Forest Clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: From the PCCF&HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15029/57/2018-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dated:05.05.2023.

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, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada has forwarded the application for diversion of 4.41 ha forest land for extraction of Quartz and Feldspar in compartment no.125, Chaganam RF Venkatagiri Range, Nellore Division in favour of M/s. Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd and furnished the following information:

1. There is slot of demand for Quartz, Feldspar, Mica as essential minerals and mica as accessory mineral. The quartz present is of glassy variety, and finds uses in glass and ferro alloy industries. The feldspar is of white in colour and sodic in nature and finds uses in ceramic industries. Hence, the area have been diverted for forest purpose duly compensating the same as per the forest department rules.
2. The area falls in survey of India Topo sheet no.57 N/12. The applied area is situated at a distance of 2.5 kms North to Rajupalem (Chagam) village and 4.5 km North-west to Jogipalli village it can be approached by B.T. Road from Sydapuram to Rapur via Rajupalem (Chaganam) village. Then cart track leads to the subject area by travelling about 3.0 Km.
3. With the above information, the Director of Mines and Geology, A.P, Ibrahimpatnam has recommended for diversion of 4.41 ha forest land for extraction of Quartz and Feldspar in compartment no.125, Chaganam RF Venkatagiri Range, Nellore Division in favour of M/s. Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has further stated that the Authorized Signatory, M/s Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd., has uploaded the proposal in the Ministry's web portal for the above said purpose. The proposal is registered with unique No.FP/AP/QR/149784/2021. Accordingly, the proposals were forwarded to the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore for processing as per the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Subsequently, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur 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 4.41 ha forest land in compartment no.122, Chaganam RF, Nellore Division for grant of quarry lease for Quartz and Feldspar minerals filed by M/s Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material Ltd., Tamilnadu.
- The user agency has furnished justification letter stating that, this Granular nature & Low chemical impurities having Quartz & Feldspar minerals are not available in other than forest area. The quality of Quartz mineral from the proposed mining area is suitable for producing and exporting high purity silica powder by the company for electronic applications. The

proposed mining will not only meeting market demand and also generate employment to the local villagers in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu States. The required and applied area for mining in extent is less. Hence, the mining is proposed in 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	3.45
2	Safety zone area	0.66
3	Road area	0.30
	Total area	4.41

- The User Agency has submitted the certificate under RoFR Act, 2006, as required under F (C) Act, 1980.
- The user agency has indicated the safety zone area for the proposed mining in the authenticated DGPS map. It is enclosed at Page No. 183 of the booklet.
- The User Agency has submitted undertakings to obtain Environment Clearance ,Rehabilitation, Reclamation, Cost of fencing and regeneration of safety zone afforestation over one and half times of degraded forest area, CA/ACA/PCA, NPV, Addl. NPV, Tree extraction charges, To bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory Afforestation etc.
- The User Agency has identified non forest land for compensatory afforestation over an extent of 4.66 ha in Sy.no.723/1 of Bollupalli village, Ardhavedu Mandal of Turimella Range, Prakasam District.
- The User Agency has furnished the approved mining plan approved by the Deputy Director of Mines and Geology, A.P., Nellore in Lr.no.210/MP/Quartz, Feldspar/NLR/2021, dated: 10.03.2022. The details of the proposal are as follows:

ii) The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- The area proposed for diversion is falling in compartment no.122, Chaganam RF, SPSR Nellore.
- Legal status of the forest is Reserved Forest
- The District Forest Officer has submitted an abstract of Enumeration of Tree growth and mentioned that 296 no. of trees to be felled in the proposed area.
- The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the forest area involved in the project proposal on 29.08.2022, stated that the density of the adjacent RF is 0.4. This area falls in Eco-Class –IV (Tropical thorn forests) open scrub forest.
- The species such as *Zizyphus xylopyrus*, *Zizyphus jujube*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Diosphyros chlorozylon* etc., There are no rare/endangered species of fauna are reported.
- Site inspection report of the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore is enclosed.
- The area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
- The proposed quarry lease falls in Chaganam RF area. The approximate distance of proposed quarry for diversion from Chaganam RF boundary is 0.70 km.
- No rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area proposed for diversion.

- The area proposed for diversion does not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Corridor, Elephant Corridor etc.,
- No protected archaeological / heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area proposed for diversion.
- The requirement of the forest land is 4.41 ha as proposed by the applicant is un-avoidable and barest minimum for the project
- The User Agency has not violated the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has also stated the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has Recommended the proposal in part-II. In column-III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and recommended the proposal. In Part-IV, the Nodal Officer (FCA), Andhra Pradesh has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur in Part -II & Part-III respectively and Recommended the proposal in Part -IV.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has stated that, as per para 2.3 of Chapter -2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi in f.No.5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the User Agency has identified non-forest land over an extent of 4.66 ha in Sy.no.723/1, Bollupalli village, Ardhaveedu (M), Turimella Range, Prakasam District. The District Forest Officer, Giddalur has inspected the non-forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation purpose on 16.04.2021, stated that the non-forest land to an extent of 4.66 ha identified by the user agency is an enclosure of ENB-III Reserve Forest, Turimella Range of Giddalur Division. The identified non-forest land suitable for raising of AR Model plantation with forest species and it can be treated with some SMC works. The soil is mostly red loamy type and it is suitable for raising Compensatory Afforestation Plantation with Misc. species (NTSH) like Chinta, Nemalinara, Yepi, Narepi, Chinduga, Tellamaddi, Neem etc,. Site inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur is enclosed herewith. the Divisional Forest Officer, Giddalur has prepared CA scheme to an extent of 3.75 ha with a financial outlay of 48.500 lakh for a period from 2023-24 to 2034-35 with 10 years maintenance. Copy of the CA scheme, map, soil suitability certificate is enclosed herewith. The authenticated CA land map and Survey of India map in 1:50,000 is enclosed herewith.

5. As per para 2.6 (ii) of comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, 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 1.20 ha in compartment no.122, Chaganam RF, Venkatagiri Range, Nellore District. The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has prepared CA scheme with a financial outlay of Rs.20.653 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.

6. 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 obtain and communicate the approval of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change for diversion of 4.41 ha forest land for extraction of Quartz and Feldspar in compartment no.122, Chaganam RF Venkatagiri Range, Nellore Division in favour of M/s. Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd, Tamilnadu under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 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 an amount of 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. Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd,
Old Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

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PART-V

Proposal for diversion of 4.41 ha forest land for extraction of Quartz and Feldspar in compartment no.122, Chaganam RF Venkatagiri Range, Nellore Division in favour of M/s. Chettinad Morimura Semiconductor Material (Pvt.) Ltd.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature



Dr. P.V. CHALAPATHI RAO, I.F.S.,
Special Secretary to Government

Environment, Forests, Science

and Technology Department

Official Seal

A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522238.

Date: 15-06-2023

Place: AMARAVATI