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भारत सरकार
 Government of India
 पर्यावरण वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
 Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
 एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/Integrated Regional Office
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F. No. 4-TSC290/2022-HYD /643

Date 12th August 2022

To,

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government,
 Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
 Telangana State Secretariat, Hyderabad.

Subject: 1st renewal of 11.96 ha of forest land in Compartment No 07, 8 in Ramavaram RF in Kothagedum Division for re-alignment of Tellavagu Nallah at VK.7 incline in favour of SCCL, Kothagedum

**Reference: 1. Proposal No. A/16.1/70/AP/MIN107
 2. Letter No. 1475/For.I(1)/2022 dated 20.05.2022**

Madam,


With reference to the above cited proposal, I am directed to inform that the proposal was placed in the 7th REC meeting held on 28.07.2022. The user agency informed the Committee that the natural course of Tellavagu was flowing over the existing underground mine and hence there was a possibility of seepage of water into the underground mine area. To avoid such seepage of water into the underground mine area, they have submitted a proposal to divert the course of Tellavagu away from the underground mine boundary and closure of old course with soil to the Government of India. The same was considered and approval accorded for diversion of the existing course of tellavagu by the Regional Office, Bangalore with a validity of ten years. The earlier approval was valid till 31/08/2015. The user agency further submitted that they are not proposing any activity within this 11.96 ha of already diverted forest area in the current request. State forest department also clarified that there is no fresh non-forestry activity proposed within the already diverted forest area and the status quo will be maintained.

Regional Empowered Committee after examination of the proposal and the submissions made by the user agency and the state forest department, noticed that the purpose for which the forest area diversion was obtained by the user agency has already been met by diverting the course of Tellavagu and filling of old course. Hence, the Committee requested the User Agency to clarify on the need for renewal of the proposal. The User Agency clarified that for obtaining EC and mine closure plan approval, valid Forest Clearance for the entire forest land falling within the mining lease area (including this 11.96 ha) is essential and it is also informed that no non forestry work or any new/ fresh work will be carried out in the said area of 11.96 ha. Only in case of any emergency due to heavy floods etc, they will enter into this area to avoid water inflow into the underground mining pits. The Committee also noted that the request for renewal/extension was submitted after lapse of about 7 years.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee opined that the current proposal may be considered as a request for extension of validity of earlier approval instead of renewal as there is no fresh non-forestry activity proposed within the already diverted forest land, hence the Committee **RECOMMENDED** to extend the validity of forest area diversion approved vide letter No. A/16.1/70/AP/MIN107 dated 31.08.2005 till the validity of the Mining Lease approved under MM (D&R) Act vide G.O. Ms. No. 324 dated 12.12.2008.

Accordingly, I am directed to convey the Central Government's **approval for extension of validity** under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 11.96 ha of forest land in Compartment No 07, 8 in Ramavaram RF in Kothagedum Division for re-alignment of Tellavagu Nallah at VK.7 incline in favour of SCCL, Kothagedum as approved vide letter No. A/16.1/70/AP/MIN107 dated 31.08.2005 till the validity of the Mining Lease approved under MM (D&R) Act vide G.O. Ms. No. 324 dated 12.12.2008 with the condition that no non-forestry activity shall be taken up in the already diverted forest area.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. D. Manjunatha, IFS) 12/8/2022
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department / Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Telangana Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad, PIN- 500004
2. The General Manager, Kothagudem Area, SCCL, Khammam- 507101. Email ID- gm_kgm@scclmines.com
3. Guard File