



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE
CHANGE



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BY SPEED POST

F.No.4-KRB 1346/2022-BAN

Dated the 20th February, 2025

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka,
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject: Diversion of 1.74 (revised from 1.84 ha.) of forest land in Sy.No. 25, Chikkakasanakandi and forest areas of Holemodlapur village, Hitanala Hobli, Koppala Taluk and District for laying of Pipeline, Transmission Line, Substation and Jack Well cum Pump House in favour of M/sBaldota Steel and Power Ltd, Hosapete. (Proposal No. FP/KA/IND /26447/2017)-reg.

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 16 FLL 2019 (e) dated 02/03/2022, 06/05/2024 and 27/01/2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the above project.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, in-principle approval /Stage-I clearance of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of 1.74 ha (revised from 1.84 ha) of forest land in Sy.No. 25, Chikkakasanakandi and forest areas of Holemodlapur village, Hitanala Hobli, Koppala Taluk and District for laying of Pipeline, Transmission Line, Substation and Jack Well cum Pump House in favour of M/s Baldota Steel and Power limited Ltd, Hosapete, subject to the following conditions:-

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
3. The equal extent non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation in Sy. No.131/Bpl, Chatnihalli village of Davanagere District, shall be notified as RF/PF before handing over of the forest land to user agency by the State Government. The Nodal Officer, after notification of such forest lands, shall upload a copy of the said notification on PARIVESH portal.
4. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the designated CAMPA account of the concerned

State through online portal as per approved CA scheme.

5. Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be carried in equal extent of non forest land identified in Sy. No.131/Bpl, Chatnihalli village of Davanagere District within the timeline provided under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023
6. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal as per the guideline issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06/01/2022 and as per the provision of Chapter 3 of the consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued vide MoEF&CC order dated 29.12.2023.
7. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
8. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
9. The KML file of the forest area to be diverted and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report including GPS ids.
10. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
11. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
12. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
13. No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
14. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
15. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 1.74 ha. The user agency shall furnish the undertaking to this effect.
16. 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;
17. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
18. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
19. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore by the end of March every year.
20. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
21. The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

22. No non forestry activity shall be carried in the proposed forest land for laying of Pipeline, Transmission Line, Substation, and Jack Well cum Pump House, till all the statutory clearances are obtained by the user agency for setting up of proposed integrated Steel Plant in Halavarthi Village of Koppal District to avoid *fait- accompli* situation. The user agency has to provide undertaking to this effect.
23. Necessary renewal permission from the Irrigation Department shall be obtained by the User agency for lifting of water from Tungabhadra Reservoir.
24. The State Govt. shall ensure that the complete compliance of FRA 2006 as per the rule 11 (7) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023.
25. Any other condition that the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bengaluru may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
26. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions within 2 years, the in-principle approval shall be deemed to be null and void.

Yours faithfully,

(M.K.Shambhu)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floor (Front Portion), Supreme Court Metro Station Building (Line-3), New Delhi-110 001.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) /Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
5. The M/S Baldota Steel and Power Limited, Baldota Enclave, Adheraj Baldota Road, Vijayanagar-583203