

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi- 110003.  
**Dated:28-10-2024**

To

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Uttarakhand,  
Dehradun.

**Sub: Proposal for renewal of approval accorded by the Ministry vide letter dated 15.02.2013 under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Managing Director Uttarakhand Forest Develop Corporation, for collection of Minor Minerals 181.0 (originally approved 254.0 ha) of forest land of Kosi River under Ramnagar Terai Western Forest Division Ramnagar District Nainital (Uttarakhand) (online proposal no. FP/UK /MIN/147885/2021)– regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Government of Uttarakhand letter No. 1127/12-1 dated 30.09.2024 on the above subject submitting compliance report of the conditions stipulated vide Ministry's letter dated 01.03.2023 and to say that after examination of information submitted by the State Government following shortcoming is observed:

- i. In compliance to condition no. (i) of the approval dated 1.03.2.023, the State Government need to inform about measures undertaken by the State to address the issues of connectivity and wildlife corridors as stipulated in the condition no. (vi) and (vii) of the approval dated 15.02.2023. Details of the same may be informed by the State.
- ii. Compliance of condition no. (ii) of the approval dated 1.03.2023 has not been ensured by the State as the order no 50/VII-A-1/23-24 /2007 TC dated 18.01.2023 has not been withdrawn so far. The State Government should immediately withdraw the said order and entire proceeds of the collection of minerals shall be used for protection and conservation of forests only in consonance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 24.03.2008.
- iii. As per DSR report, the total potential of minerals in the river is 4.68 million tonnes over potential area of 2362 ha. Clear detail of leases allotted for mining of minor minerals in Kosi river and their annual capacity has not been indicated in the DSR. The State Government, therefore needs to confirm if the sand mining leases allotted in the District in general and in Kosi River in particular are in consonance with the recommendations made in the DSR.
- iv. Detailed action taken report against failure of compensatory afforestation, has not been submitted by the State Government. The report submitted as Annexure-2 mention that due to human population and cattle grazing besides

biotic pressure due to wildlife. The reason/justification has been cited for all 36 sites which seems to be not prudent. Therefore, the State Government needs to provide a detailed action taken report against the failure of afforestation at the earliest in accordance with condition no. (v) of then approval dated 1.03.2023.

- v. Further, the MoEF&CC, vide its letter of even number dated 4.04.2024 has requested the State Government to submit compliance/monitoring report of the conditions stipulated in the approval which is still awaited from the State Government. Condition wise monitoring/compliance report may be submitted by the State.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to provide information as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

*Sd/-*

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**

Scientist 'E'

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
2. The Dy. Director General of Forest (Central) Regional Office, Dehradun.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC.
5. User Agency.