

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 10th November, 2022

To,
The Regional Officer (Central),
Integrated Regional Office,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for assignment of forest land on lease under section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 involving forest area of 575.16 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited) (DCBL) for Kottameta Limestone mining in Katamateru village under Malkangiri Tehsil of Malakangiri District, Odisha –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0057-2022-12010 dated 08.07.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 17.10.2022. The detailed minutes of the FAC meeting held on 17.10.2022 may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The FAC, after going through the facts of the proposal, observed that since the area falls into High Conservation Value Zone due to its close proximity with river Kolab; therefore before taking a further view on the proposal, to ensure in-depth examination and to avoid *fait accompli* situation in the matter, the following detail will be furnished by the concerned IRO.

- i. Likely impact of mining on the river Kolab and mitigating measures required to be undertaken to minimise the impact on hydrological regimes of the area.
- ii. As per progressive Mine Closure Plan an area of 2.584 ha has been used for roads, the IRO may ascertain if the use of the road in the past was with the prior approval or otherwise and the factual position may be intimated to the Ministry.
- iii. Exact nature and legal status of non-forest land involved in the project may be ascertained by the IRO and informed to the Ministry.

In view of the above, Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar is requested to submit a report, as indicated above, enabling further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. Principle Secretary (Forests), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.