



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ Regional Office

पता: द्वितीय तल, झारखण्ड राज्य आवास बोर्ड मुख्यालय, हरमू चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड - 834002
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File no. FP/JH/MIN/24815/2017/644

Date: 17th November 2025

To

The Inspector General of Forest(FC),
Ministry Of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003.

Sub: Diversion of 4.856 Ha of forest land for Paharpur Stone deposit in favour of Jai Baba Patalipuri Stone mines and Crushers Pvt. LTD in Giridih district of Jharkhand.

Ref: Ministry's Letter No. 8-07/2025-FC dated 23.08.2025 .

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to forward herewith the site inspection report (SIR) along with the recommendation of the DDGF(Central) for diversion of 4.856 Ha of forest land for Paharpur Stone deposit in favour of Jai Baba Patalipuri Stone mines and Crushers Pvt. LTD (Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/24815/2017) in Giridih district of Jharkhand for information and necessary action please.

Yours Faithfully

Encl: As stated above.

(Poreddy Sanjeeva Reddy)
Asstt. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT**Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for diversion of 4.856 ha. of forest land for Paharpur Stone deposit in favour of Jai Baba Patalipuri Stone mines and Crusher Pvt. LTD in Giridih district of Jharkhand.**

A forest diversion proposal with proposal no. FP/JH/MIN/24815/2017 was received by Regional Office, Ranchi on 31/10/2019 from the state government seeking diversion of 12Acre or 4.856 ha of forest land under Giridih Forest Division in the state of Jharkhand for mining of Granite and Gneiss stones in favor of Jai Baba Patalipuri Stone mines and Crushers Pvt LTD. The Regional Office after examination of the proposal raised EDS on certain additional information vide its letter dated 10/12/2019 and returned the proposal to the state government. After a considerable gap, the reply of the EDS from the state was received at this office vide state government's letter dated 13/6/2025. As in the intervening period amendment in erstwhile Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 took place and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 came into effect which is implemented through Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules-2023, this proposal that belongs to mining category was forwarded to Head Office by this Regional Office for further processing of the proposal in accordance to Rule 16 (i) of the aforementioned Rules-2023 in July 2025. Also, this Regional Office undertook site inspection visit to the involved area for preparing this necessary Site Inspection Report (SIR) as mandated under Rule 10(4) of the Rules-2023 for further consideration of the proposal by the central government.

Name of the Inspecting Officer: P. Sanjeeva Reddy, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF), Regional Office Ranchi, MoEFCC.

Date of Inspection: 11-12th July 2025

Officials present from the state Forest Department:

- Sri. Manish Tiwari, IFS, DFO Giridih (East) Forest Division
- Sri. Anil Kumar, Range Officer, Gawan and other forest staff.

Official present from the User Agency:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad, Project Proponent and his team.

1. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion:

The total area of the proposed project is 4.856 ha, all forest land, situated in Khata no.2, plot no.16 & 18 falling within Paharpur Mouja of Gawan block of Giridih District under Giridih (East) Forest Division. The proposed site is part of notified Protected Forest (PF) under Indian Forest Act, 1927. There is no Non-Forest Land involved in the proposal.

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The total break up of land of the proposed forest land is as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Forest Area (ha)
1.	For Mining/quarry	2.371
2.	Road & infra	0.005
3.	Safety Zone	0.950
4.	Unused	1.584
Total area (Ha)		4.856

The proposal does not involve any non-forest area.

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If, yes details thereof:

No. There are no construction of any buildings proposed in the applied forest area. The ancillary infrastructure like office area, the crusher area and the labour hutments etc. shall be required but such facilities shall be under temporary prefabricated structures that would be movable. This infrastructure shall keep on shifting as the quarry progresses throughout the plan period.

4. Total cost of the project at present rate:

Total cost of the project is around Rs 60 Lakh.

5. Wildlife:

The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere/Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor or ecologically or culturally protected/restricted area, etc. Nearest Wildlife Sanctuary is Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary at approx. distance of 35 kms.

6. Vegetation:

The proposed area is almost devoid of any significant vegetation (DSS analysis attached herewith and few site photos taken during site visit are attached). No trees were sighted during site inspection. The small bushes and shrubs are prevalent at the top of hillock. DFO present there apprised that vegetative density is mentioned as 0.2 in part - II of the online proposal is indicative of the shrubs and bushes present in the area. Although visiting team found that good Sal forests are present at some distance (~300m) southwards of the proposed area.

a) Total number of trees to be felled:

The number of trees to be felled is nil.

b) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

As the number of trees to be felled are nil, effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem of the area is not applicable. Although, mining activity that essentially involves removal of top soil is potentially going to aggravate soil erosion and edaphon habitat loss to some extent.

7. Background Note on the proposal:

The officials present during the site inspection informed the inspecting team that the area is one of the most backward in the district where employment opportunities apart from agriculture is very limited. In this region there are few barren hills that are notified forest. People often resort to illegal stone quarrying from these forest areas to supplement their livelihood. Forest department has been on continuous vigil to stop stone mining in the area, but unable to completely stop it due to prevalent under employment coupled with better remuneration of these stones in local market in view of no working stone mine in the near vicinity.

Considering the prospects, M/s Jai Baba Patalpuri Stone Mines & Crushers (Pvt) Limited Prop: Smt. Rekha Devi has applied on 04.01.2016 to Assistant Mining Officer (AMO), Giridih district for Mining lease for Stone at village – Paharpur, Anchal – Gawan, Thana – Gawan, District – Giridih Jharkhand in Khata No. 1,2 and Plot No. 16,18. Assistant Mining Officer, Giridih has issued the letter to the Applicant vide no. 4001 dated 20.12.2016. He has sought the report from

Divisional Forest Officer (East) Giridih and circle officer, Gawan on certain statutory points for processing of Lease to the Applicant vide no. 3665 dated 08.12.2016 and 3866 dated 08.12.2016 respectively. The approved Mining plan and the Environmental Clearance are mandatory to be obtained before grant of lease in line with the Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 27.02.2012. Hence the proposal.

The DFO, Giridih East and Conservator of Forest, Giridih Circle has conducted site inspection on 25.08.2017 and 06.04.2019 respectively and forwarded the diversion proposal along with their recommendations to Nodal Officer, Jharkhand. The PCCF-Nodal, Jharkhand has forwarded the diversion proposal on 21.05.2019 to the ACS, FE&CC Department for issuance of Stage – I. Thereafter, Government of Jharkhand has consented and forwarded the diversion proposal to the Regional Office, Ranchi on 24.10.2019 for further necessary action.

The proposal was scrutinized by Regional Office, Ranchi and clarification was sought from the state government vide letter No. 3652 dated 10.12.2019. The state government submitted the reply of the 5-point query raised by the Regional Office vide letter No. 2075 dated 13.06.2025. Thereafter, as per the extant Rules 2023, the proposal was forwarded to HO along with reply for further processing.

8. Compensatory Afforestation (CA):

Compensatory afforestation has been identified/proposed over 5.13 ha Non-Forest Land (NFL) located in same district and same Giridih East Forest Division. The entire Non-forest land identified against proposed CA belongs to private individuals. CA land is composed of several patches that are located in two (2) villages namely Dharwe (3.35ha) and Kumhiyatri (1.35ha). CA NFL in Kumhariya village is contiguous to forest area and appropriate for acceptance. CA sites identified in Dharwe village comprises of six (6) patches. The findings of the CA NFL areas on the basis of physical visit as well as examination of GIS-DSS outcomes, and satellite data analysis are highlighted below:

Proposed CA Non-Forest Land information

- **State:** Jharkhand
- **District:** Giridih
- **Software calculated area:** 5.111 hectare (Dharwe: 3.215 Ha. and Kumhiyatri: 1.896 Ha.)

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Forest cover information (FCM):

Forest cover information of the CA land (Area in Ha.)

FCM	Not Suitable for plantation			Suitable for plantation			Total area (ha.)
	Water	VDF (Tree Cover: >70%)	MDF (Tree Cover: 40 - 70%)	OPEN FOREST (Tree Cover: 10 - 40%)	SCRUB (Tree Cover: <10%)	NON FOREST (Tree Cover: 0%)	
Dharwe CA land	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	03.00	03.00
Kumhiyatri CA land	00.00	00.00	01.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	03.00

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Total Area (Ha.)	00.00	00.00	01.00	02.00	00.00	03.00	06.00
	01.00			05.00			

Village	Plot No.	Area in Ha.	Observations
Kumhiyatri	6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27	1.896	It has been observed that there is vegetation, a pathway, and a plantation area within the proposed CA land.
Dharwe	352	0.27	Vegetation has been observed within this CA patch.
	351	0.932	Water bodies and vegetation were seen in this CA patch.
	349	0.347	Agricultural land and tree cluster were observed within this CA patch.
	354	0.651	Agricultural land has been observed within these CA patches.
	12	0.518	
	16	0.497	
Total area in Ha.		5.111	

Remarks:

1. CA land area estimated using DSS is 5.111 ha (6 Ha). The forest cover of the CA area reveals that corresponding area falling under MDF, Open Forest and Non-Forest category are 01.00 Ha., 02.00 Ha. and 3.00 Ha. respectively.
2. Discrete CA patches have been observed. Most of the CA patches are less than 1 ha except Kumhiyatri CA patch.
3. CA patch's plot no. 352, 351, 349 and 354 of Dharwe village and all plots of Kumhiyatri village are continuous to forest land.
4. The Cadastral map of plot no. 12 and 16 for CA patches of Dharwe village area not available.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

It is found that the proposed CA land is more or less suitable for plantation. Most of the identified CA lands are mostly barren lands covered with scrub/bushes, suitable for plantation except some small patch of vegetation. The CA land is under the ownership of the private individuals and they have run into agreement with User Agency that the land will be transferred to the Forest Department after issuance of Stage – I.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:

No. The proposed CA NFL is private land belonging to local raiyats. Therefore, the land is presently under parent owners occupation and subject to agriculture. There has been agreement between owner and user agency that the land would be sold/transferred to user agency in case of proposal getting cleared. Satellite imagery of the CA NFL, few patches as highlighted in table of previous section, show them as completely agricultural field and not in contiguity of existing forest area. User agency needs to change these patches with more appropriate ones.



(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view:

The CA land is not important from Religious/Archaeological point of view.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

Details provided above in (a).

(e) Total financial outlay:

₹: 1835586.00. (from CA scheme details of 2017)

9. Whether proposal involves violation of VAN (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.

The proposal does not involve violation of VAN (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as there was no work found done/started related to the proposal. Although, the area has several traces of illegal quarry. During Site inspection, a rudimentary road was found passing through central portion of the applied area. When enquired, the forest staff informed that this pedestrian path type of road was used by locals for daily commute between villages across the hill. In due course of time motorized vehicles too started plying and gradually the road took its present shape. This road is not constructed in violation of forest regulation but being used as community resource. The inspecting team asked the DFO to examine the case and if found justified the road may be conceptualized for institutionalization. The DFO replied in confirmation. He further added that the proposed mine would not impede the local commute as the path-way shall be shifted along the periphery of the project. This work done in past is not attributed to user agency in anyways.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

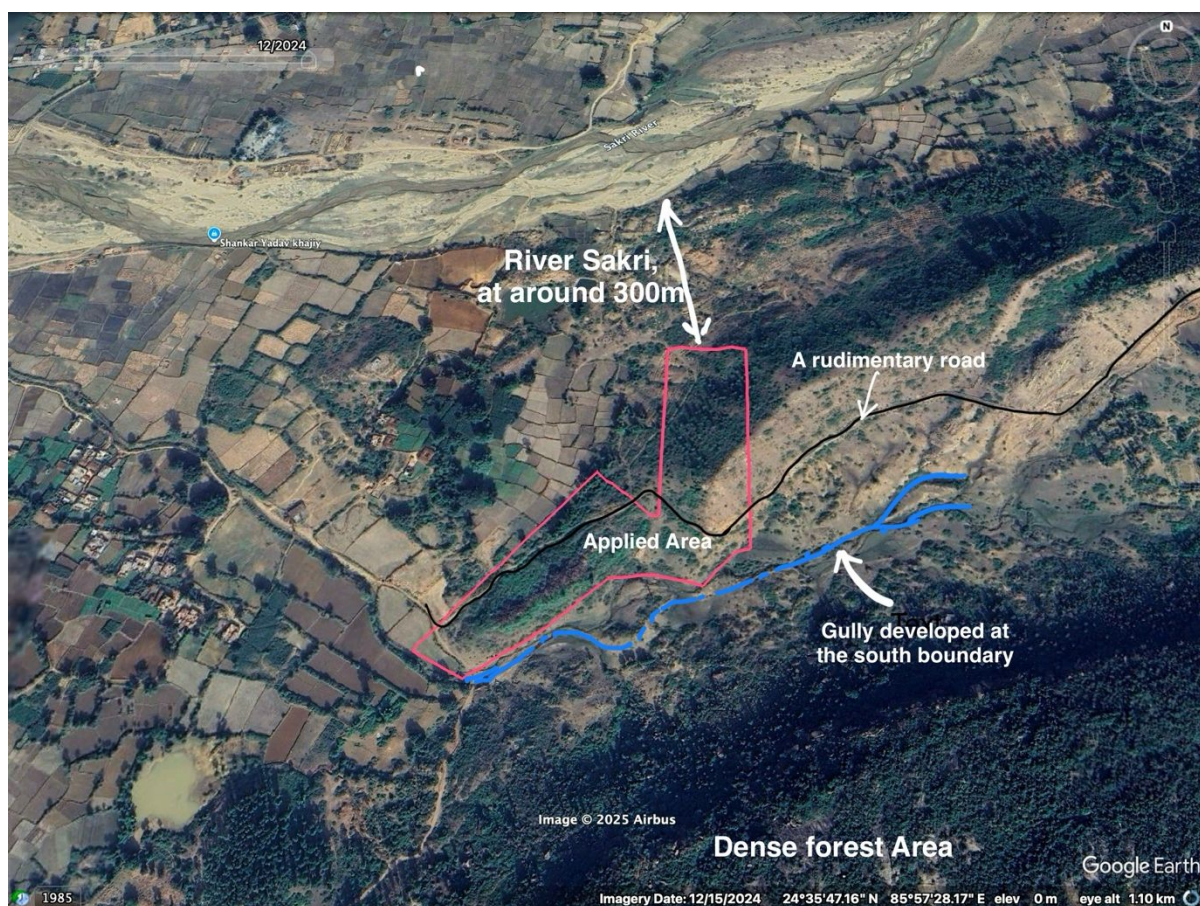
During the site visit, it was observed that since the entire area is forest land along a barren hill, there has never been any habitation or settlement in the proposed project area, either in the past or at present. Therefore, no displacement of families is involved in the proposal.

11. Reclamation Plan

Since the mining has to be in two phases of 5 years each, the mine closure would be planned in the mining plan of the second 5year plan. But the user agency informed that indicative Mine-closure plan is already made according to which at the end of mining, 2.443 ha area shall be reclaimed after plantation and 2.393ha area shall be kept with void to serve as water reservoir and percolation facilitation region. 0.2ha area shall remain unused (standing trees undisturbed) that mostly belong to safety zone creation and left unused intentionally.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

The entire area falls under the catchment of Sakri river which is seasonal but an important river of the region that rises from the densely forested hills situated in southern side of the applied area, travels through the northern plains merging into other rivers of southern Bihar and finally draining into river Ganga. The applied area is around 300 meters from the river bank. There are no small order streams located within the applied area that may impeded the water receipt of Sakri river. Although, a gully has been developed near the southern boundary of the proposed area due to the steeper gradient. The project proponent informed that the gully is outside of the applied area and the same shall be protected by the plantation done in the safety zone of the southern boundary of the lease. The situation is depicted in the following satellite imagery.



13. Cost benefit ratio: 1:9.49

The present proposal is less than 20ha and hence does not require Cost-Benefit Analysis. Yet, there has been CBA done by the project proponent that appears considerably appropriate having an CB Ratio of 1:9.49

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/ State Government.

The proposal has been recommended by the PCCF/State government. The recommendation letters are attached online with the application.

15. Dy. Director General of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

Attached separately.

16. Utility of the project.

This is a proposal of stone mining in forest area. Prima-facie such proposals are not encouraged and forest should not be diverted for ubiquitously available minor mineral like building stone/granite/gneiss. But non-availability of stone deposits in non-forest area in this region makes this proposal site specific. The region has been backwards with low employment opportunities and has been victim of severe illegal mining in past. Therefore, the DFO informed that opening of this mine in this region would improve the socio-economic situation of the locals. Since the forest area in consideration is small in extent (less than 5 ha), supports negligible vegetation and considerably away from dense forests, therefore, the same can be diverted for ensuring better

social good. Further, as per the Justification for locating the Project (Parivesh 1.0) and discussion with User Agency, the lease area comprises deposits of Granite Stone (Granite and Granite Gneisses) popularly known as “Building Stone” which are being used in most of the constructional activities like road construction, building material, irrigation projects etc. The Stone of this area are also utilized for ballast stone in railway tracks. Even the weathered part of the deposit is utilized for pitching in river embankment and filling up of pits etc. in State and National Highways., The operationalization of this stone mine is expected to contribute significantly to the State’s revenue through royalty and other applicable taxes.

17. (a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:

Informed not be of any such particular significance.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

No.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

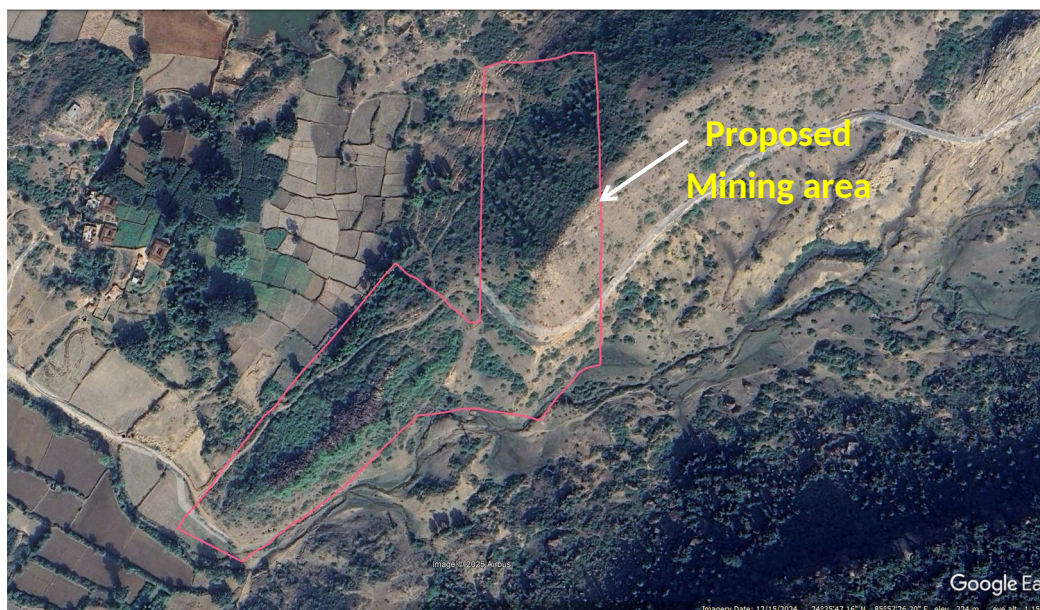
No. The area is vegetation devoid and does not form any conducive environment for the wildlife to thrive in the area.

18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

No rare endangered species of flora and fauna were noticed in the area. No protected area/ archeological heritage site/ defense establishment or other important monuments are located in the area. Nearest Wildlife Sanctuary is Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary at approx. distance of 35 km.

19. Any other information relating to the project:

- i. Ananlysing the necessity of opening a new stone mine in forest it was noted, as per the information in Jharkhand Directorate of Mines and Geology website, 61 leases were active in Giridih district earlier. Out of 61 mining leases, lease of 14 expired in 2020, 11 expired in 2021, 4 expired in 2022, 6 expired in 2023, 1 expired in 2024, 20 expired in 2025, 2 expires in 2026 and 3 expires in 2027. The forest department officials as well as villagers present there unanimously claimed that at present, since last 3-4 years, no mining is being done around the area except for few illicit incidents.
- ii. Most recent available Google Earth imagery of the area is of 15.12.2024. New DSS done on basis of this image is attached herewith as Annexure. DSS deciphers Area as Non-Forest (Canopy cover: 0%).



- iii. As deduced by the site inspection as well as progressive satellite imageries of the region, there was no evidence of ongoing illegal mining within the lease area.
- iv. The mining plan is submitted and approved for five years. Mining Plan approval letter (vide letter no. 58 dated 6/1/2017 by DMO, Giridih) is attached herewith. The total project life is 10 years and second mining plan shall be prepared in later course of time, the same shall incorporate the Mine-Closure Plan too.
- v. The user agency informed that mining shall be done by silent blasting without leaving any significant impact outside the lease. Also, the equipment used in mining shall be diesel operated mostly and therefore electricity use is limited. No separate forest land is informed to be needed for electricity and water requirement for the project. Similarly, no additional road is required to be constructed outside the proposed area through the forest that may require forest diversion for extract evacuation as the existing pathway is sufficient for the purpose.
- vi. The Letter of Intent to the extant mining proposal has been issued on 20/12/2016 by the District Mining Officer, Giridih. The user agency informed that in furtherance to the Letter of Intent, lease materialisation can happen only after the issuance of Stage-I towards the forest diversion. In want of forest clearance the lease is still not finalised by the state government.
- vii. The DFO present during the inspection visit apprised the visiting team that as per the records of Giridih East Forest Division, no stone mine has been sanctioned/working in forest land. This is the first stone mine applied in forest area. As there are no legal mines in Gawan area, the area is prone to illegal quarrying and therefore leasing of this area besides preventing the illegal mining, will also generate employment for local people.
- viii. The area has rugged topography and rocky terrain which supports feeble vegetation.

Recommendation/Suggestions:

Although as an established convention, forest area should not be diverted for extraction of almost ubiquitous minor minerals like granite stones but in extant case, the region has no stone deposit and the region is comparatively backward with extremely low employment opportunity. Also, as

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emphasized by the state government, the forest area of 4.856ha is located on a barren hill that has been victim of illegal mining in recent times. Further, this stone mine project life is comparatively of short duration of 10 years only after which the forest land would be surrendered back to state forest department post reclamation. Additionally, the user agency has proposed to provide 5.13ha of Non-Forest Land to the forest department for CA purpose that shall be notified as PF/RF. Therefore, pragmatically after the project life of 10 years the department would have more than double the area being considered for diversion today. This would add to the total forest area of the Forest Division as well as of state. Hence, this proposal may be considered for recommendation if it is ensured that:

1. The user agency produces a collateral that the entire forest land under consideration shall be duly reclaimed & rehabilitated with plantation and surrendered back to state forest department after the project life of 10 years.
2. A contiguous safety zone in terms of 7.5 meter greenbelt shall be maintained at the periphery of the stone quarry to ensure that no spillage of mine wastes are polluting the vicinity.
3. Appropriate measures shall be taken by user agency to ensure that Sakri River is not getting any adverse impact due to this proposal. Accordingly, the user agency shall implement through state forest department, soil and moisture measures in the surrounding areas to check the possible leaching into river.
4. Mining activities shall be permitted only in day time.
5. A comprehensive Mining Plan for entire project life of 10 years along with Mine Closure Plan is prepared and submitted before commencing the mining activities.
6. Non-contiguous (to existing forests) patches with area less than 1ha shall be changed with suitable NFL and Compensatory Afforestation Scheme shall be revised to incorporate appropriate provisions for fencing & Forest Boundary Pillars construction in view of CA NFL getting notified as PF/RF.

The Site Inspection Report is hereby being submitted for further action.



P. Sanjeeva Reddy
AIGF (C), RO Ranchi

Site Inspection Photographs

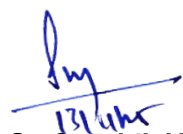
RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS
(CENTRAL) FOR PROPOSAL NO. FP/JH/MIN/24815/2017

The proposal involves the diversion of 4.856 hectares of forest land for the Paharpur Stone Deposit Project in favour of Jai Baba Patalipuri Stone Mines and Crusher Pvt. Ltd., located in Giridih District, Jharkhand.

The site inspection was carried out by Shri P. Sanjeeva Reddy, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF), Regional Office, Ranchi, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), on 11-12 July 2025.

The findings of the Site Inspection Report (SIR) are concurred with. Based on the recommendations of the State Government, **the proposal is recommended for diversion of 4.856 hectares of forest land, subject to the following conditions:**

1. The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, a restoration schedule, and a schedule for the surrender of forest land, as stipulated under Standard Condition 2(1) applicable to mining projects.
2. A continuous safety zone comprising a 7.5-metre-wide greenbelt shall be maintained along the periphery of the stone quarry to prevent the spillage of mine waste and pollution of surrounding areas.
3. The State Government shall assess the likely impact of the proposed activity on the Sakri River, which flows at a distance of about 330 metres from the proposed diversion area. It shall prescribe appropriate mitigation measures to the User Agency as required and ensure strict compliance with those measures.
4. As the proposed non-forest Compensatory Afforestation (CA) lands, namely Plot No. 12 (0.518 ha) and Plot No. 16 (0.497 ha) in Dharwe village, are surrounded by agricultural lands and are unsuitable from the forest management point of view, the User Agency shall provide alternative non-forest land suitable for afforestation purposes.
5. The State Government shall revise the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme upon receipt of the alternate non-forest land as stated above and include provisions for its maintenance in accordance with the prevailing rules.


(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)

Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)