

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 22 Nov, 2022

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept.,
Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.

Sub: Diversion of 1.645 ha. (Revised from 1.7456 ha) of forest land in SM Block, and Sy. No. 224 of Bannihatti Village (Section-4 proposed area) in Ballari District for proposed Main Pipe Conveyor Belt Corridor from Nandihalli Railway Yard to JSW Plant in favour of M/s JSW Steel Ltd. Vidyanagar, Ballari District.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Govt. letters No. FEE 11 FFM 2019 dated 16.12.2019, 22.01.2021, 10.06.2021, 14.12.2021 and 12.08.2022 forwarding the above mentioned proposal and additional information for amendment of the condition no. 9 of Stage-I letter dt 28.05.2018 and condition no. 6 of Stage-II letter dt 25.06.2019 which states that *In order to safeguard Wildlife and free movement of wild animals during the night, transportation of ore through conveyor belt shall be restricted from sunset to sunrise*) and forwarding the comments on study report on "Evaluation of the impact of increased timings of the operation of main pipe conveyor from Nandihalli yard to JSW plant on wildlife" carried out by the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute, Karnataka.

2. The request of the State Govt. was earlier considered in FAC meetings held on 19.12.2019, 17.02.2021, 16.08.21 and 27.01.22. Accordingly with the approval of Competent Authority the Ministry permitted the operation time of Conveyor Belt established by M/s JSW Steel Ltd., Thorangal be extended from morning 6.00 hours to night 2.00 hours (totally 20.00 hours) on experimental basis for 04 months and later the same was extended till 30.09.2021.

3. Further, it is informed that the matter was once again deliberated and discussed in detail in the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on 21.09.2022 and with the approval of Competent Authority, the Ministry has recommended the proposal for operationalization of conveyor belt for 24 hours stating that all mitigation measures suggested by CWLW shall be implemented first and the compliance w.r.t. implementation of mitigation measures to be monitored by the IRO Bangalore for which IRO may take the compliance report from the State government before starting operation of conveyor belt for 24 hours. Both State and IRO will ensure that mitigation measures are in place before the operationalization of conveyor belt for 24 hours as proposed.

4. Further the condition no. 9 of Stage-I letter dt 28.05.2018 and condition no. 6 of Stage-II letter dt 25.06.2019 which states that:-

In order to safeguard Wildlife and free movement of wild animals during the night, transportation of ore through conveyor belt shall be restricted from sunset to sunrise

is amended to

The operation time of conveyor belt established by M/s JSW Steel Ltd. may be operational for 24 hours subjected to the fulfillment of mitigation measures suggested by CWLW, Karnataka State are in place.

5. It is clarified that till the mitigation measures are in place the transportation of ore through conveyor belt shall be restricted only from **sunset to sunrise**.

In view of above the State Govt. is requested to ensure all mitigation measures suggested by CWLW, Karnataka are in place and submit the compliance to IRO Bangalore before the operationalization of conveyor belt for 24 hours.

This issues with the approval of Competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

sd/-

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.