

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi – 110003  
Dated: February, 2024

To,  
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment,  
Government of Karnataka  
Bengaluru.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Karnataka, Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL), for non-forestry use of 575.0749 ha of forest land for the construction of dam across Markandeya River and ancillary infrastructure in forest lands of Gokak, Godachinamalki, Konnur and Mavanura villages in Gokak and Hukkeri Taluks, Belagavi District for storing 6 TMC of water under Ghatti-Basavanna Drinking Water Supply Project by KNNL, Govt. of Karnataka. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/WATER/65437/2020).**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Karnataka's letter No.FEE 23 FLL 2023 (e) dated 31.01.2024 on the above mentioned subject forwarding the additional information in response to this Ministry's letter dated 15.03.2023 and to say that after examination of the said information Ministry observed the following shortcomings:

- i. The justification provided by the State Government in respect of the observation no. (iv) of the Ministry's letter dated 16.03.2024 regarding justification of 12.95 ha forest land proposed for Dam office & guest house (4.50 ha) and Dam view point (8.45 ha) seems not tenable. It has also been observed that large chunk of non-forest land is showing adjoining the proposed site and the UA has also selected 3.0794 ha non-forest land for Water Treatment Plant and Colony. These proposed non-site specific activities may be shifted on suitable non-forest land.
- ii. Similarly, the justification provided by the State Government in respect of the observation no. (v) of the Ministry's letter dated 16.03.2024 regarding component namely Utility proposed on 1.054 ha. of forest land is not justified and is not specific. This activity may also be proposed on non-forest land.

In view of above the State Government is requested to reconsider the proposal of the said land use activities on forest land and submit its comments to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. DDGF (C) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (VSESA), 1980, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.