

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 10th March, 2021

To,

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (*revised from 484.0733 ha.*) (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWS KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru.-regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018). -reg.

Sir

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 19FFM 2020 (e) dated 09th October, 2020 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In this regard, it is informed that the above mentioned proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on 17.02.2021 and it was decided to ascertain from the Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Mines of Government of India if there is any embargo by any Court on allowing new iron ore mines on virgin forest area and if there is any production cap for iron ore mining in Bellary district/Karnataka State and that proposed mining by M/s KIOCL can be permissible now.

In view of above, both the Ministries are requested to kindly forward their comments as sought in para 2 above for further action in the M0EF&CC.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy To:

1. PPS to DGF&SS/ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC, New Delhi.