

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110003.  
Dated: 18th March, 2021

To  
**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),**  
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 Government of Karnataka's letter no. FEE-11FFM/2019 dt 22.01.2021 on the above-mentioned subject wherein it was requested that the user agency may be permitted to extend the activity of Conveyor Belt from 12.00 am to 12.00 am (24 hours) subject to certain conditions.

2. In this regard it is informed that the issue was examined in the Ministry and it is decided that the user agency may not be allowed to operate the conveyor belt for 24 hours a day without appropriate study as suggested in earlier approval dated 13.01.2021.

3. However, considering the unprecedented situation due to COVID 19 pandemic and considering that the conveyor belt transport method has been considered as a more environmental-friendly option, in addition to other conditions proposed by the State Government, the user agency may be permitted by the State Government to operate the Conveyor belt *from morning 6.00 hours to night 2.00 hours (i.e. a total of 20.00 hours a day) upto 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.*

4. Further, the State Government shall ensure that the required study is completed and the findings are submitted to the Ministry for appropriate decision prior to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-**

(Sandeep Sharma)

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.