

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 01.03.2023

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Uttarakhand
Dehradun

Sub: Proposal for renewal of approval granted by the Ministry vide letter dated 23.01.2013 under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Managing Director Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Mining Division Haldwani for Collection of Minor Minerals from 1473 ha (originally proposed area is 1497 ha) of forest land of Gaula River under Forest Division Tarai East, Haldwani and District Nainital, Uttarakhand (Online proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/149754/2021)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited proposal submitted by the Government of Uttarakhand vide letter No. FP/UK/MIN/147954/2021 dated 12.04.2022 seeking prior approval for renewal of approval accorded vide letter No. 8-61/1999-FC dated 23.01.2013 of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard the Ministry vide letter of even number dated 23.01.2023 has extended the validity of the approval dated 23.01.2013 up to 28.02.2023 subject to certain conditions mentioned therein. The proposal submitted by the State Govt. was placed before the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Uttarakhand and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby **accords its approval to renew** the approval dated 23.01.2013 over an area of 1473.0 hectares for a further period of **5 years** w.e.f. 01.03.2023 subject to the strict compliance of the conditions stipulated in the final /Stage-II approval dated 23.01.2013 and following specific conditions:

- i. The 24.0 ha area within the Tiger corridor shall not be disturbed as the same has been excluded from the area allowed to be used for the collection of minerals. No mining or other ancillary activity shall be allowed within the Tiger Corridor.
- ii. The proposed area also falls within the Shivalik Elephant Reserve. Keeping in view the importance of the area and the issues of connectivity and corridors, adequate conditions have been stipulated in the Stage-II approval dated 23.01.2013, which needs to be strictly adhered with without any laxity and maintenance of corridors and its functionality be ensured.
- iii. As per the para 3.5 of the Handbook of guidelines issued in consonance with the

Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 24.03.2008, the sale proceeds have to be used for protection/conservation of forests. The Government of Uttarakhand shall therefore examine the order no. 50/VII-A-I/23-24ख/2007 TC dated 18.01.2023 which shall be withdrawn immediately and entire proceeds of the collection of minerals shall be used for protection and conservation of forests only.

- iv. The Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun shall verify and reconcile with record that 50 % of the net profit earned from the collection of minor minerals and deposited in a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been used exclusively for river training activities and management & protection of forest & wildlife in vicinity of forest land diverted for collection of minor minerals, with in a period of 3 months.
- v. A fresh DSR shall be prepared by the State government within a period of 3 months from the date of renewal granted and an approved copy of the same shall be submitted to the Ministry and IRO Dehradun.
- vi. The State Government shall take immediate action on the recommendations/observations made by the Regional Office Dehradun with respect to the Compensatory Afforestation areas. The State government shall also submit a detailed report regarding action taken against failure of compensatory afforestation within 3 months of time.
- vii. The Regional office Dehradun of MoEFCC shall carry out a periodic review of the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions every year.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Uttarkhand, Dehradun.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
3. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun.
4. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of the FC Division for uploading on the PARIVESH portal.