

**Sub: Proposal seeking permission for Survey & Exploration of Uranium over 83 km<sup>2</sup> [(over an area of 7 km<sup>2</sup> (in 2 blocks of 3 and 4 km<sup>2</sup> in Nidgul RF of WLM Division, Nagarjuna Sagar and 76 km<sup>2</sup> (in 2 blocks of 38 km<sup>2</sup> of each)] in Amrabad Tiger Reserve by Atomic Minerals Directorate for exploration and Research, South Central Region, Hyderabad.**

1. The State Government of Telangana, Forest Department vide their letter No.594/2015/FCA-1 dated 22.05.2018 forwarded a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for seeking permission for Survey & Exploration of Uranium over 83 km<sup>2</sup> [(over an area of 7 km<sup>2</sup> (in 2 blocks of 3 and 4 km<sup>2</sup> in Nidgul RF of WLM Division, Nagarjuna Sagar and 76 km<sup>2</sup> (in 2 blocks of 38 km<sup>2</sup> of each)] in Amrabad Tiger Reserve by Atomic Minerals Directorate for exploration and Research, South Central Region, Hyderabad.
2. The above proposal was considered in the FAC meeting in its meeting on 22.05.2019. The FAC observed that there are certain deficiencies in the proposal. However, considering the fact that the proposal is of critical importance from national perspective, it recommended for in-principal approval subject to submission of all required documents/information in due format. After receipt of the same, the complete proposal may be placed before the Competent Authority for approval.
3. The above recommendations were communicated to the State Govt. of Telangana vide this Ministry's letter dated 19.06.2019 read with reminder dated 03.09.2019. Now, the PCCF & (HoFF) Government of Telangana vide their letter No.594/2015/FCA-1 dated 13.11.2019 forwarding information in response to this Ministry's letter date 19.06.2019. It is informed that the Form-C has been uploaded online on 01.07.2019 by the user agency and but shortcomings have been noticed which need to be attended by the UA and the same was requested and explained in person to Dr. Bisht of AMD Hyderabad on 04.07.2019. The user agency has furnished 14 (7+7) of proposals in Form C duly filled in Part-I seeking permission to take up Survey & Exploration of Uranium in Amrabad and Nagarjunsagar WL divisions under Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda Districts respectively which have been forwarded to the Forest Divisional Officers, Amrabad and Forest Divisional Officer, Nagarjunsagar WL with directions to submit the information on the (a) details of the existing RoW/Cart track proposed to be utilized for transportation of machinery & man power to reach the bore hole site for drilling duly indexed and authenticated on the map.(b) whether any formation of approach road (temporary/permanent) are required to reach bore holes from existing roads for carrying out the drilling of boreholes; alongwith the no of trees to be felled, if any (c) the number of days required for exploration etc., which is awaited.
4. It is further informed that the DFOs have also requested the UA to demarcate the influential area on the ground, show the location of boreholes proposed and the pathway to reach the proposed boreholes to ascertain whether it involves any tree felling and whether if required to form any paths. The UA is yet to attend to joint inspection and yet to furnish additional information sought.
5. It is also informed that the reference on the decision taken by the Hon'ble Legislative Council that " The house unanimously resolves to request the government of India not to permit or allow the mining operations of Uranium in Nallamalla Forest area and other areas in Telangana State".
6. It is also informed that the status report of proposals is being furnished to the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi enclosing a copy of the resolution of the Legislative Council of the State not to permit or allow mining operations of Uranium in Nallamalla forest area or other areas in Telangana.
7. The recommendations of the FAC is still awaited from the State Government. The User agency only uploaded the proposal on the PARIVESH portal. But the status of the same is showing on the portal is draft mode.
8. The above matter was discussed with IGF (FC) in his chamber on 11.03.2020 and it was decided that the proposal may be placed in the upcoming FAC of this month.

In view of the above facts related to the proposal, it is proposed that proposal may be submitted to the FAC for its consideration in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held **on 23.04.2020.**

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