

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 1100 03
Dated:02-05-2025

To

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

Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.331 Ha (revised from 4.3013 Ha) of forest land in Sy No. 20 Megalahalli Village, Sy No. 9 Marijogihalli Village and Sy No. 6 Bedarabommanahalli Village in Nirthadi State (Reserved) Forest, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk and District for approach road to ML No. 2677 through Gate-3 in favour of M/s Vedanta limited, Chitradurga District. (Proposal No: FP/KA/MIN/144881/2021)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No.no. FEE 07 FFM 2025 (e) dated 24.03.2025 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the said proposal, the state government is requested to submit the following documents/information for further necessary action in the matter:

- i. The CA area over NFL has been mentioned 6.069 ha as per the forwarding letter of the PCCF dated 03.02.2025 however, in the part-II the DFO has mentioned NFL area for CA as 4.538 ha. The State Government may provide a clarification.
- ii. The area of the CA land is less than 5.0 ha and it is far from the nearest boundary of the Reserve Forest, therefore, as per the Para 2.3 (iv) of the consolidated guideline dated 29.12.2023 the CA scheme with 20 years maintenance may be submitted.
- iii. Observation based on Google Earth image: cultivation land is visible. Therefore, the State Govt. shall submit its comments on the same and ensure the suitability of the proposed CA land.
- iv. The Ministry vide F.No.8-81/1992-FC(Pt), dated 30-12-2014 has accorded the final approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of mining lease over 164.79 ha of forest land (161.54 ha for mining lease + 3.25 ha for approach road) in Nirthadi Reserved Forest in

favour of M/s Sesa Sterlite Limited (formerly M/s Sesa Goa Limited). The State Govt. shall submit the compliance report of conditions stipulated in this approval.

- v. The Ministry vide letter No. 8-81/1992-FC-FC (pt) dated 17-01-2019 has accorded '***in-principle***' (Stage-I) approval for *ex-post facto* approval of 2.025 ha of forest land for approach. The SG vide letter No. FEE 73 FFM 2014 dated 04.11.2024 has submitted the compliance report and the Ministry after the examination of the said compliance report has asked the SG to submit the additional information/documents vide letter dated 05.12.2024 (***copy enclosed***). The reply of the same still awaited. The reply to the same letter shall be submitted.
- vi. As reported by the State Govt. an FOC No.18/2022-23, dated 01-10-2022 against the authorities of M/s Vedanta Limited for using the forest portion of Gate-3 approach road has been registered and has submitted the charge sheet to the Jurisdictional JMFC Court. This case is pending in JMFC Court. The transportation of M/s Vedanta ore has since been stopped, after registering FC No.18/2022-23 dated 01.10.2022. In this regard, the State Govt. shall provide the latest updated status of the case.
- vii. The state shall submit the present status of the mining operations in the area.

In view of the above, the State Government of Karnataka is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Digitally signed by
Sundar Sambamoorthi
Date: 04-05-2025
10:36:08

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-
(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

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

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 1100 03
Dated:04-12-2024

To

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

Subject: Proposal for (*Ex-post facto approval*) seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. Sesa Strelite Limited, Bheemasamundra, Chitradurga, for non-forestry use of 2.025 ha. of forest land for approach road in Nirthadi State Forest, Holalkere Range, Chitradurga Division, Bheemasumundra, Chitradurga District, Karnataka (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32978/2013).regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 73 FFM 2014 dated 04.11.2024 on the above mentioned subject forwarding a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the '*in-principle*' approval dated 17.01.2019 and to say that after examination of the said compliance report, the following is observed:

- i. The 'in-principle' approval was granted by the Ministry on 17.01.2019. The period of five years' time has been expired. Therefore valid and cogent reasons for extraordinary delaying for submission of the compliance report shall be submitted by the State Govt.
- ii. The User Agency has not submitted the undertaking of the conditions No. (1) of the '*in-principle*' approval letter dated 17.01.2019. The same shall be submitted.
- iii. The user agency has deposited compensatory levies into the National Authority, CAMPA through challan and RTGS. In this regard the details of the compensatory levies which has been deposited by the RTGS (offline mode) in the prescribed format of CAMPA, signed by the Nodal Officer shall be submitted.
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the UA deposit the differential amount of the NPV as the revised rate of NPV Guideline dated 06.01.2022 read with letter dated 22.03.2022.
- v. As per the condition no. (21) of the 'in-principle' approval the user agency has not raised strip plantation on either sides of the road and central verge.

Further, a copy of the design of providing at least 2-3 rows of long rotation indigenous trees, as per provision of IRC-SP-21- 2009 (Guidelines on landscaping & tree plantation) has not been provided. The same shall be submitted.

- vi. Regarding condition no (5) of the 'in-principle' approval regarding proceeding of the court is given in the regional language. The true translated copy of same is required to be submitted in Hindi or English along with a summary note/comment by the Nodal Officer with regard to any implication of the said court matter.

In view of the above, the State Government of Karnataka is requested to furnish the above mentioned information/documents to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal for grant of Stage-II approval.

Signed by
Dheeraj Mittal

Yours Sincerely,

Date: 05-12-2024 09:34:40 (Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The DDGF (Central) Regional Office, Bangalore of MoEF&CC.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC division of MoEF& CC, New Delhi.