

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: June, 2024

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

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Karnataka, Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL), for non-forestry use of 575.0749 ha of forest land for the construction of dam across Markandeya River and ancillary infrastructure in forest lands of Gokak, Godachinamalki, Konnur and Mavanura villages in Gokak and Hukkeri Taluks, Belagavi District for storing 6 TMC of water under Ghatti-Basavanna Drinking Water Supply Project by KNNL, Govt. of Karnataka. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/WATER/65437/2020).

Madam/Sir

I am directed to refer to this office letter of even no. 23.02.2024 wherein certain information on the above mentioned subject have been sought. The reply is awaited. Further, it is to inform that the Regional Office Bengaluru vide 4-KRA1445/2023-BAN dated 21.05.2024 (**copy enclosed**) has submitted the Site Inspection Report for the instant proposal. After the examination of the said SIR, the State Government is requested to submit the information/ justification as pointed out by the RO Bengaluru in his SIR for further action in the matter:

- i. Many encroachments are found which need to be exactly measured and delineated and excluded to make the CA land free from encumbrances. As per the discussions with field functionaries, about 100 hectares (in both NFL and DFL put together) is under encroachment. Exact areas free from encumbrances may be given and balance shortfall shall be provided / uploaded on the portal. In this regard details and comments shall be submitted.
- ii. Planting has been done in some patches of CA land identified. The State Govt shall clarify in this regard.
- iii. The CA scheme may be modified to include SMC works and protection of the available vegetation, closing the land from biotic interference, along with enrichment activities for improved success as noted in the SIR.
- iv. How it has been categorized as a drinking water project and what are the parameters to term the project as one need to furnished. Further, number of proposed beneficiaries may also be provided.
- v. Since it is a major dam proposed over an inter-state river, the applicability of

Central Water Commission's approval and its status shall be provided.

- vi. Since the proposal involves relocation of village with more than 200 families, the R&R plan as acceptable to the villagers should be in place. The status of R&R plan shall be provided along with comments.
- vii. Further, as per SIR, with regards to the requirement of 12.95 ha forest land for Dam office, guest house, dam point view and utilities, which seem non-site specific in nature, the sites were seen and discussed with the UA and SFD. The UA has agreed to shift the View point (8.45 ha) and utility component (1.054 ha) to non-forest area. They have requested for retention of Dam office and Guest house in forest area due to strategic requirement. Accordingly the revised land use map/updated KML etc. shall be provided/uploaded.

In view of above the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents as mentioned above along with the reply to this office letter dated 23.02.2024 wherein certain information on the above mentioned subject were sought to this Ministry at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. DDGF (C) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (VSESA), 1980, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.