

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: 19th June, 2023

To

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 103.2 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. Zeenath Transport Company, District Bellary, Karnataka. -regarding request for forest clearance for an additional area of 53.20 ha of forest land.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even no. dt. 25.06.2009 (copy enclosed) and to enclose herewith a copy of the letter No. NIL dated 22.05.2023 received from Managing Partner of M/s. Zeenath Transport Company, Bellari Karnataka regarding request for forest Clearance for an additional area of 53.20 ha of forest land.

In view of the above, Government of Karnataka is requested to examine the matter and furnish its comments to this Ministry.

**Encl.: As above**

Yours faithfully,  
**Sd/-**  
**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy along with a copy of the said letter to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore, for information and necessary action.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA) Department of Forest, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore of MoEF&CC.
4. The Managing Partner of M/s. Zeenath Transport Company, Bellari Karnataka, for information.

# ZEENATH TRANSPORT COMPANY

MINE OWNER & EXPORTERS  
"ZEENATH HOUSE"

Cowl Bazaar,  
Ballari - 583 102.

To,

Date: 22.05.2023

The Inspector General,

Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change,

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road Aliganj,

New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

**Sub: Request for Forest Clearance for an additional area of 53.2 Ha.**

**Ref: Our earlier request letter dated 13.03.2009.**

With reference to the subject cited above, we would like to inform you Sir, the State Government had recommended for Forest Clearance for an area of 103.20 Ha but whereas, we had been granted only 50 Ha in the Year 2003 and the same has been executed under MMDR Act vide ML No. 2547 in the Year 2007.

But whereas, we require additional area of Forest land of 53.20 Ha for systematic and scientific mining. We are also enclosing copies of letter of intent dated 22/11/1993 issued by the Department of Mines & Geology and recommendation letter dated 30/11/1994 issued by the State Forest Department for your kind reference. Hence we request you to issue Forest Clearance for the balance area of 53.20 Ha.

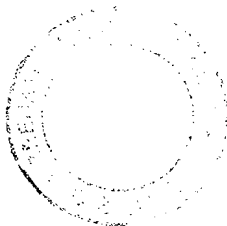
Kindly do the needful in the matter and oblige.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

M/s. Zeenath Transport Company

*Syed Ahmed*  
Managing Partner



19/6/23  
1342/10007  
28/5/23

# FEASIBILITY REPORT

OF

RAMGAD IRON ORE MINE  
OVER AN AREA OF BALANCE 53.20 Ha.  
SITUATED IN : R.M. BLOCK, TALUK: SANDUR,  
DISTRICT: BELLARY, STATE: KARNATAKA

OF

M/s. ZEENATH TRANSPORT COMPANY.  
BELLARY, KARNATAKA.

18 A/121, NEHRU COLONY,  
11th CROSS, BELLARY-583103,

May - 2023

**FEASIBILITY REPORT**  
**of RAMGAD IRON ORE MINE (ML No. 2547)**  
**of M/s. ZEENATH TRANSPORT COMPANY, BELLARY.**

**Introduction:**

M/s. Zeenath Transport Company, Bellary, Karnataka, a partnership firm is in the mining business since last 5 decades. Ramgad Iron Ore mine (M.L. No. 2547) was granted mining lease on 27.04.20007 for 30 years in R.M. Block, Ramgad range, Sandur Tq., Bellary Dist., to mine iron ore, over an area of 50.00 Ha.

Department of Mines & Geology recommended 103.20 Ha. and asked the applicant to submit the approved mining plan. Accordingly Mining Plan was prepared and approved by IBM on 18.03.1994. However, Forest Conservation Division of Ministry & Environment and Forests, New Delhi has given Forest Clearance under the F(C) Act 1980, only for 50.00 Ha. on 05.01.2004. Environmental Clearance was also obtained from Ministry of Environment and Forest over 50.00 Ha. of the lease area for a production of 2.0 mtpa vide letter No. J-11015/220/2008-IA.II(M) dated October 29, 2008 mining lease was granted over an area of 50.00 Ha. on 27.04.2007 under M.L.No.2547 for lease period of 30 years.

**Details of the area:**

<b>Name of the Lessee</b>	: M/s. Zeenath Transport Company, Bellary.
<b>Name of the mine</b>	: Ramgad Iron Ore Mine (M.L. No. 2547),
<b>Village</b>	: Ramgad,
<b>Taluka</b>	: Sandur,
<b>District</b>	: Bellary,
<b>State</b>	: Karnataka,
<b>Toposheet No.</b>	: 57 A/7, A/8 & 57A/12,
<b>Latitude</b>	: 15° 05' 00"
<b>Longitude</b>	: 76° 30' 00"

**Justification for requirement of additional 53.20 Ha. is as mentioned below:**

1. The demand for iron ore has been increased enormously in the region since various steel plants are set-up in Bellary District with rated annual capacity of over 20 mtpa, apart from export demand of 20 to 25 mtpa. Due to recent technological development, demand has been increased for low grade fines in the international market. Hence the lessee had intended to increase the production from 0.50 million tonnes to 2.00 million tonnes. Accordingly, the approved mining plan was modified in respect of scale operation and mining machineries and approved by IBM. Environmental clearance was also obtained for increased production from MoEF.
2. Mean while, a systematic exploration was carried-out by drilling 18 DTH bore holes with total depth of 792m. Due to extensive mining, ore body and other lithological units like laterite, phyllite and intrusions have well exposed. Due to detailed exploration and extensive mining during last few years, it is observed that ore to waste ratio is increased from 1:0.3 to 1:0.62 which requires additional area for dumping.
3. Due to increase in production from 0.5 mtpa to 2.0 mtpa, quantity of sub-grade ore and waste generation is also increased.
4. Earlier sub-grade ore was considered from 58% Fe to 62% Fe where as now +45% to 60% Fe is considered as sub grade ore. Due to change in threshold value of sub-grade ore, there will be enormous quantity of sub grade ore generation which requires additional area for stacking.
5. Further, to extract the mineral deposit with in the approved area, it is essential to develop sideways in the balance area of 53.20 Ha. Hence the balance area of 53.20 Ha. having iron ore float has been applied for forest clearance, in the interest of mineral conservation and scientific & systematic development of the mines.

**Characteristics of deposit:** The additional area of 53.20 Ha. contains iron ore float upto 3m depth. The float ore is having Fe content between 58 % to 60%. The size of the float ore is ranging from +12mm to 250mm. This float ore is deposited along the slopes of the hill. The recovery of deposit is considered as 50%.

### **Detailed Exploration (G1):**

#### **1. Geological Survey :**

(i) Mapping: Geological mapping in 1 : 2000 scale was carried-out.

(ii) Preparation of detailed topographical-cum-geological map including all surface geological features, extent of deposit is carried-out.

2. **Geochemical Survey:** Geochemical Survey in the form of chemical analysis of float iron ore and waste were carried-out.

3. **Petrographic and Mineragraphic Study:** Iron ore in this area occurs in the form of massive lumpy ore pieces with steel gray lusture and fine grained texture. Since the ore is saleable without further processing, beneficiation tests are not carried-out.

The gangue minerals associated with the float ore are laterite, shale/phyllite. Since the deposit is explored as explained above, Geological Axis is considered as G1.

### **Feasibility Axis : (F1)**

#### **1. Geology :**

##### **General Geology:**

The Bellary - Hospet region forms a part of the 'Sandur Schist Belt', referable as, the "Dharwars", a group of Precambrian schistose rocks of Mysore. The lithological units include green stones which are the metamorphosed basic igneous rocks occupying the valley regions, with phyllite - quartzite's forming the canoe-shaped amphitheater of hills, trending NNW-SSE and enclosing Sandur. The phyllites are locally shaly and the quartzites are of the nature of banded hematite jaspers, and banded hematite quartzite's, interbanded with each other. The banded hematite jaspers, the important source rocks for the iron ores in the area are prominent in the northern and western part of the ranges, where as the associated shales become prominent in the southern and eastern parts of the area. The iron ores form a capping over the quartzite's

and shales and overlie a sequence of manganiferous phyllitic rocks. Lateritisation is widespread in most of the flat topped ridges.

Structurally, the Sandur hills form a tightly folded synclinorium, plunging gently to NNW and the hill ranges broadly delineate the folded limbs of synclines, with close repetition of strata due to minor folds. The strike of the ore bodies is generally parallel to the trend of the hill ranges, the dips are often steep, being vertical at number of places. Opposing dips towards NE and SW are found as in the Ramandurg and NEB ranges respectively.

#### **Local / Mine Geology:**

The general sequence of rock formations found in the area are, as, given below:

- Soil cover
- Iron Ore Float
- Ferruginous shale/ Phyllite
- BHQ

#### **(i) Detailed exploration ~**

Since the float ore is existed in the additional area of 53.20 Ha., no detailed exploration is carried-out.

#### **(ii) Ground water and surface water studies ~**

The entire mining operations will be confined at the hilltop, which are above the ground water table. Also the balance area is required mainly for stacking and dumping. Hence, no ground water is likely to be encountered throughout the life of the mine.

## **2. Mining :**

### **(i) Mining Plan :**

The float iron ore is deposited along the slopes of the hill. The recovery of deposit is considered as 50%. As the Iron ore is float type, there is no drilling and blasting proposed to be carried - out. The mining will be conducted using HEMM. Since the thickness of

float ore deposit is very less (about 3m), the waste will be used for back filling in the mined-out area, where as ore will be loaded by wheel loader into tippers. However, one wheel loader will be utilized for loading the float ore into tippers, and then this ore will be transported to vibratory screen for screening as per the buyers demand. Big boulders will be sized in crushing and screening plant.

(ii) **Mine recoveries:** Since the ore is float type, the recovery is considered as 50%.

(iii) **Haulage:** Transportation of ore & waste will be through 17 ton tippers upto crushing & screening plant and rejection dump yard respectively. From stockyard to destination hired tippers/trucks will be used.

(3) **Miscellaneous:**

-- Nil --

(4) **Environment:** The balance area of 53.20 Ha. is in forest land, adjacent to the working lease area with very thin top soil and less plant cover. Only float ore will be mined and the area will be used for stacking sub-grade and dumping the waste. The top soil removed will be used to cover the dump slopes for plantation purpose. There are no surface and ground water sources in the balance applied area of 53.20 Ha. Land degraded in the form of pits will be backfilled and afforested. Plantation will be carried-out along the boundary and dump surface. Hence there will be a positive development of the area. Surface and ground water will not be affected due to mining and related activity. There will be positive socio-economic impact as more people will gain employment. There will be development of buffer zone villages due to economic improvement of people around.

(5) **Processing:** There is no proposal for processing of ore as it is saleable after simple crushing and screening.



(6) **Infrastructure and services, construction activities:** Existing infrastructures like office, stores, first aid station, rest shelters and other statutory buildings will be used. Water for domestic purpose also will be provided. Approach road from nearby villages and Sandur is existing.

(7) **Marketing :**

- a) The iron ore from this mine will be used in the steel making process and also sponge industries. The iron ore produced shall be either sold to intermediate parties or to the buyer industries directly.
- b) Physical and Chemical specifications stipulated by the buyers.

Sl. No.	Buyers	Chemical specification	Physical specification
1.	JSW	58 - 65% Fe.	-10mm / 5-20mm / 10-40mm
2.	Kalyani steels		
3.	KFIL		
4.	Sesa Goa		
5.	Tata metalics		
6.	Aparant steels		
7.	Local sponge Iron units		
8.	Exports		

Lessee is planning to set-up steel industry. Iron ore produced from this mine may also be used in the proposed plant.

- c) The high and sub grade iron ore will be blended suitably at the mine to meet the specifications stipulated by the buyers.
- (8) **Economic viability:** Since iron ore mining and sale is carried-out since last 40-50 years in the region, the operations will be economically viable.
- (9) **Other factors:** Statutory provisions relating to labour, land mining and taxation will be followed.

**Economic Axis - (E1):**

1. Detailed exploration is carried-out as explained already in para Geological Axis - G1

2. Mining report / mining plan / working mines: Detailed mining plan will be prepared.
3. End use grade: The iron ore from this mine will be used in the steel making process and also sponge industries. The iron ore produced shall be either sold to intermediate parties or to the buyer industries directly.
4. Specific knowledge of forest/non forest and other land use data: Applied area is forest land. During the mine closure the total area will be afforested.

**Conclusion :** Since the area is under G1 under Geology Axis, F1 in Feasibility Axis, E1 in Economic Axis, the project is feasible.

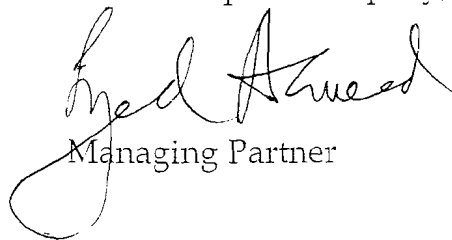
In the view of above and for systematic & scientific mining, mineral conservation point of view, systematic dumping of ore, sub-grade ore stack and environmental protective measures proposed to be under taken, it is essential to have additional 53.20 Ha. of the balance area which was originally considered by Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka.

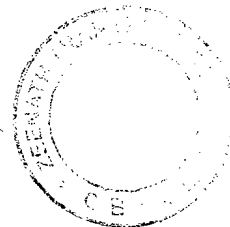
Hence it is requested to sanction the additional area of 53.20 Ha. which is adjacent to originally sanctioned lease area of 50.00 Ha.

In view of the above, we once again request you to kindly sanction additional 53.20 Ha. of forest area.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
for Zeenath Transport Company,

  
Managing Partner



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No.101/AML.90  
91.RVN.81

10433

W.P.No.21376/82

Office of the Director,  
Department of Mines & Geology,  
S. P. Complex, Lalbagh Road,  
Near Subbanna Circle, Bangalore-27.  
Dated:22nd November 1993.

22 NOV 1993

To

M/s Zeenath Transport Company,  
Mine owners,  
'Zeenath House',  
Cowl Bazar,  
BELLARY-583102.

Sirs,

Sub:-Your mining lease application for  
iron ore and Manganese ore over an  
area of 105.22 Hects.in R.M.Block  
of Sandur taluk, Bellary District  
regarding submission of Mining plans  
and other certificates.


Ref:-Letter No.A5 (B1) MNG.CR.104/93-94  
dt.3.11.93 from P.C.C.F Bangalore.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,Bangalore,  
in his above letter has sent a sketch showing an area  
of 103.20 Hects(255 acres) which is recommended for approval  
as per FCA 1980. Therefore, you are informed to submit  
the following documents at the earliest for taking  
further action.

- (1) Mining plans in triplicate duly approved  
by Indian Bureau of Mines.
- (ii) Clearence from the Department of Ecology  
and Environment M.S.Building,Bangalore-1
- (iii) Permission from the Karnataka State  
Pollution Control Board,Public Utility  
Buildings, 8th Floor, M.G.Road,Bangalore-1.

Further action will be taken only after receipt  
of the above documents.

Yours faithfully,

  
DIRECTOR.  
22/11/93

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No.FEE 145 FFM 93

Karnataka Government  
Secretariat,  
M.S. Building,  
Bangalore,  
Dated 30.11.1994

From

Principal Secretary to Government,  
Forest, Environment and Ecology  
Department, M.S. Building, Bangalore.

To

The Secretary to Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
Paryavaram Bhawan, CGO Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

(ATTENTION: SHRI.R.K.CHAUDHRY, A.I.G.F.)

Sir,

Sub: Mining lease application of M/s  
Zeepath Transport Company, Bellary  
over an area of 103.2 Ha. for iron  
ore in R.M. Block of Sandur Taluk

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While forwarding herewith the proposal  
for grant of mining lease over an area of 103.2 Ha.  
of forest land in R.M. Block of Sandur Taluk,  
Bellary District for Iron and Manganese Ore in  
favour of M/s Zeenath Transport Company of  
Bellary, I am directed to state that it is reported  
by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Bangalore that the area originally applied for  
lease was 710.64 Ha. and Director of Mines and  
Geology had reduced the area to 105.22 Ha.  
Further the applicant company, depending on the  
available ore clusters, has requested for grant  
of mining lease over an area of 103.2 Ha. only.  
Accordingly the proposal processed for the above  
area only.

In lieu of the forest land proposed for diversion, equal extent of non-forest C & D class land has been identified in Sy.No. 218 of Ranive Thimmapur in Hospet Taluk, Bellary District for raising compensatory afforestation and the same has already been transferred to Forest Department vide Memo No.RAY.LND. R617/82-83, dated 17.5.1982. of the Tahasildar, Hospet Taluk. The user agency has agreed to pay the cost of compensatory afforestation and they have given declaration to that effect.

In view of the above, I am directed to request you to obtain and communicate approval of Government of India as required under Sec.2 of the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 to the proposal for grant of forest land for mining lease over an area of 103.2 Ha. in R.M.Block, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District for Iron and Manganese Ore in favour of M/s Zeenath Transport Company, Bellary for period of 10 years as recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. A copy of letter No.A5.B1.MNG.CR. 104/93-94 dated 2.9.1993 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore is enclosed herewith together with proforma proposals, sketches, maps, etc., relating to the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd./- xx

(P.G.PRASAD)

Under Secretary to Government,  
Forest, Environment and Ecology  
Department.

Copy to

1. Chief Conservator of Forests(Central),  
Regional Office, Southern Zone, No.463,  
1st Main, III Block, III Stage, Basavesh-  
waranagar, Bangalore-79, with one set of  
records.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore
3. The Conservator of Forests, Bellary Circle,  
Bellary
4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bellary Dn.,  
Bellary
5. M/s Zeenath Transport Company, Cowl Bazar,  
Bellary

"TRUE COPY"

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1333  
2-1-04

F.No.8-2/95-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex,  
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.  
New Delhi, the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2004.

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Karnataka,  
Bangalore.

Sub: Mining lease over 50.00 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Zeenath Transport Company, District Bellary, Karnataka

Ref: Compliance report of Govt. of Karnataka vide letter No. FEE 66 FFM 2003 dated: 11-12-2003.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FEE 145 FFM 93 dated 30-11-94 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendation of the above mentioned Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining lease over 50.00 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Zeenath Transport Company, District Bellary, Karnataka, subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

1. State Government shall collect the **Net Present Value (NPV)** of the forest land as per the orders of the Supreme Court. **The land shall not be transferred to the User Agency till the NPV is collected by the State Government.**
2. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
3. Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over equivalent non-forest land and shall be maintained at the project cost by the State Forest Department.
4. The non-forest land for compensatory afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under section - 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the State Forest Act prior to the transfer of forest land to the User Agency.
5. Nodal Officer shall submit compliance report of condition No.1 & 4 as mentioned above, to RCCF, Bangalore, who will monitor the compliance and submit the report to the Ministry.

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6. To demarcate the area, four feet high RCC pillars with forward and back bearing shall be erected and maintained by the User Agency at the project cost.
7. Safety zone and plantations shall be created and protected by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
8. The User Agency will reclaim the old mines as per the calendar plan submitted by them at the project cost under the supervision of State Forest Department.
9. The User Agency will follow the calendar plan for development of mine with special regards to the management of the over burden dumps at the project cost under the supervision of State Forest Department.
10. Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
11. No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
12. Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers at the project cost after purchase from the State Forest Department/Forest Development Corporation.
13. The User Agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available wildlife, if any.
14. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
15. The diversion period shall be co-terminus with the current lease granted under MMRD Act, 1957.
16. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
17. Any other condition that the State Government as well as CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore, may impose from time to time for the protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area.

Yours faithfully,

sd/ —

(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (SZ), Bangalore.
3. RO (Hqs), New Delhi
4. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
5. User Agency.
6. PS to IGF(FC).
7. Monitoring Cell, FC Division.
8. Guard file.

  
5/11/04

(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests



F.No. 8-2/95-FC

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(FC- Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110003.

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

To

**The Principal Secretary to the Government,**  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department,  
M.S. Building,  
Bangalore, Karnataka.

Sub: Diversion of 103.2 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Zeenath Transport Company, district Bellary, Karnataka.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 145 FFM 93 dated 30.11.1994, the User Agency's letter number nil dated 13.03.2009 (copy enclosed) and this office's even no dated 05.01.2004 regarding diversion of 103.2 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Zeenath Transport Company, district Bellary, Karnataka. Earlier, 50.00 ha out of 103.20 ha of forest land was diverted after considering in Forest Advisory Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2003. The then Committee felt that the mining over 50.00 ha forest land will be sufficient for the next 20 years or so keeping in view mining potential of the User Agency. Now the User Agency has requested that the additional forest land is required for systematic and scientific mining.

It is further directed to request you to kindly give the view of the State Government on the User Agency's application as mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,



(B.K. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore, Karnataka
2. Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Bangalore, Karnataka.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore.
4. The User Agency for information and compliance.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.



(B.K. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests