

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 6th August, 2021

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

Sub:-Proposal for diversion of 75.92 ha. of forest land (near M.L. No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, Two Tailing dams (I & II) and laying of Water pipeline in favour of NMDC limited. Donimalai Township, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District. (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/Others/14576/2015).-regarding.

Sir/Madam

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 16 FFM 2021 (e) dated 25.06.2021 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After preliminary scrutiny of the proposal the Ministry revealed the following shortcomings:

- i. The User Agency has applied the instant proposal under the Others category in PARIVESH portal instead of Mining category. The components mentioned for diversion seems to the ancillary activities of Mining. In this regard the State govt. may provide its Justification.
- ii. From the documents submitted by the State Govt it is not clear that whether these activities were already part of the earlier approved Mining Plan (ML 2396).
- iii. The State Govt. is requested to submit the detail of total Mining Lease of the entire Area.
- iv. The State Govt. is requested to submit the details of total Forest land involved in the entire Mining Lease and the details regarding how much Forest area has already been diverted.
- v. The State Government is requested to submit the approved mining plan and valid lease documents including the lease period.
- vi. The State Government may clarify whether the instant proposal is a part of the old proposal which was granted stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-107/91-FC dt 06.02.2009. KML file for the entire area of lease along with separate files of non forest and forest area with in lease shall be provided.
- vii. The CB ratio uploaded by the User Agency has not been verified/signed by the

competent authority in the forest department. Moreover, it shows higher value and shall be re-verified by the State Government. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the revised CB ratio approved as per latest guidelines

- viii. The CA Scheme for 12 years is uploaded in the PARIVESH portal and the same is not legible. In this regard a legible copy of CA scheme may be uploaded in PARIVESH by the State Government.
- ix. The present status and KML file of the CA areas w.r.t. the earlier granted stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-107/1991-FC dt 06.02.2009 may be forwarded to the Ministry.
- x. The complete compliance of the earlier diverted area i.e. 608 ha which was granted Stage-II/final approval vide this Ministry's letter no. dt. 8-107/91-FC dt 06.02.2009. may be submitted by the State Government.
- xi. The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over C&D class over Non-forest/ Revenue land equal in extent to the forest land being diverted. But the proposed CA land is reported to be not suitable for carrying out plantation. As per the existing Rules and Guidelines number of plants to be planted over Non-Forest land identified for CA shall be at least 1000 plants per hectare. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to identify the degraded forest land where the balanced seedling can be planted and forward the kml files of the site to this Ministry with the revised CA Scheme.
- xii. The Site suitability certificate submitted by the concerned DFO mentions about an area of 451.228 ha., but the area requirement for CA is instant proposal is 75.92 ha. In this regard, a revised site suitability may be submitted and clear recommendation for the CA area over non forest land may be provided. From the perusal of documents it is not understood that why the CA suitability certificate of 451.228 ha has been submitted.
- xiii. The proposal is not site specific and it is requested to explore non forest area for establishing the proposed structures. The details about the alternate sites explored and identified for the instant proposal by the State Government shall be submitted.

In this regard, the State Government is requested to submit the information/clarification/documents as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.