

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003,
Dated: September, 2023

To

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 64.86 hectare of forest land (60.66 ha. for mining + 4.2 ha. for approach road) in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, near Dharmapura village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Narsimha Iron Ore Mine ML No.2148 [an auctioned C-category mine] erstwhile Lessee Sri H.G. Rangangouda] in favour of M/s MSPL Limited, Hosapete, Ballari District (LoI holder). -regarding (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/MIN/39986/2019).

Sir

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 57 FLL 2021 (e) dated 17th November, 2021 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act., In this regard, it is informed that the matter was discussed in the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 11.09.2023. The detailed minutes of the said AC meeting is uploaded in the parivesh.nic.in. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the State Govt and Nodal Officer to consider the instant proposal for transfer.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Karnataka and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby approves the **transfer of the FC** approval for diversion of 64.86 hectare of forest land (60.66 ha. for mining + 4.2 ha. for approach road) in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, near Dharmapura village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Narsimha Iron Ore Mine ML No.2148 [an auctioned C-category mine] from erstwhile lessee Sri H.G. Rangangouda in favour of M/s MSPL Limited, Hosapete, Ballari District (LoI holder) which will be now co-terminus with the validity of lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1957, subject to the following conditions: -

- i. Lease transfer charges @ 10% of the NPV or ₹1,00,000/- (1 Lakh) whichever is less will be realized from the new user agency and will be deposited in the account of National Authority, CAMPA, through e-portal before execution of lease in favour of the new user agency;
- ii. ***Since, the compliance wrt the CA land and afforestation is not complete in the instant proposal, the working permission for a period not***

exceeding one year is hereby granted by the Central Government to enable the State Govt/user agency to comply with the conditions of approval granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

- iii. **The required levies as per prevalent rates and guidelines (NPV for land to be diverted and safety zone along with CA levies) shall be deposited by the user agency before handing over the forest area to the user agency for any further mining activities;**
- iv. **In case the State Government/user agency fails to submit the complete compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to erstwhile agency within a period of one year, the approval of the Central Government granted under the Forest Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be deemed to be cancelled;**
- v. **The State Govt. shall submit the complete compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to erstwhile agency and the conditions stipulated as per approval letter dated 08.07.2003, 07.12.2006 and 05.02.2007 within one year along with the required copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land identified for CA under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may be;**
- vi. **The State Govt. shall ensure the compliance of the relevant guidelines/clarifications issued by this Ministry and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regards to cases involving transfer of C-category mines;**
- vii. **The State Govt. shall ensure that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter;**
- viii. The user agency shall also furnish an undertaking to pay the additional NPV, if so determined by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- ix. The user agency shall abide by all the conditions on which the forest land was leased to the original user agency;
- x. The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance in terms of the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the diverted forest land;
- xi. The user agency shall abide by any other condition that may be stipulated by the Central Government/Regional Offices/State Government in future in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xii. The State Govt. and the user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Act, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

Yours Faithfully

Sd-

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore, MoEF&CC.

I/53836/2023

4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.