

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 to Govt.,
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Transfer of forest clearance of Karadikolla Iron Ore Mines (ML No.2487) in respect of diversion of 86.12 ha of forest land in North-Eastern Block (NEB) Range, Karadikolla Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District Range, present FC leaseholder M/s Lakshminarayan Mines Company to M/s MSPL Limited, Hosapete, the successful bidder in e-auction conducted by Mines and Geology Department. – regarding.

Sir

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter no FEE 10 FFM 2023 (e) dt 01.08.2023 and PCCF & Nodal Officer (FC) letter No. KFD/HoFF/A5-1(MNG)/7/2020-FC dated 31.08.2023 requesting that the transfer should also have been co-terminus with the mining lease period 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.

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 accord ex-post facto approval for the time lapsed (i.e. from 21.05.2023) and to extend the validity of the FC which will be now co-terminus with the validity of lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1957 subject to the following conditions:

- i. Since, the compliance wrt the CA land and afforestation is not complete in the instant proposal, a 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;
- ii. 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;
- iii. 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;

- iv. The State Govt. shall submit the complete compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to erstwhile agency and the conditions stipulated as per transfer approval letter dated 25.10.2019 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;
- v. 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;
- vi. 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 and
- vii. The State Govt. and user agency shall abide with all the conditions stipulated vide this Ministry's transfer approval letter dt 25.10.2019 except condition no (v).

In view of above, the condition no. (v) i.e. ***The approval granted under the provisions of FCA 1980 is valid upto 20.05.2023*** imposed vide this Ministry's approval letter dt 25.10.2019 stands modified as above.

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.
4. User Agency: (a) Old User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.