

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: June, 2024**

To

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

**Sub: Diversion of 19.206 hectare of forest land in Swami Malai (SM) Forest Block in Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing Downhill Pipe Conveyor System from Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2516) to proposed railway siding at Dharmapura in favour of Sri B. Rudrda Gouda, Sandur, Ballari District, as Legal representative of Late Sri B. Kumara Gouda (BKG) in the State of Karnataka (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/36226/2018).**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 53 FFM 2018 dated 01.01.2019 and E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MISC)110/2018-FC dated 11.07.2019 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, '*in-principle*' approval for the said diversion was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 15.10.2019 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The Government of Karnataka has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the '*in-principle*' approval and has requested the Central Government to grant *final approval*.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report submitted by the Govt. of Karnataka vide letter No. FEE 53 FFM 2018 dated 27.06.2022 along-with the PCCF(HoFF) vide letter dated 16.02.2021 and vide letter no. FEE 53 FFM 2018 dated 17.05.2024 '**Stage-II/final approval**' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 19.206 hectare of forest land in Swami Malai (SM) Forest Block in Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing Downhill Pipe Conveyor System from Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2516) to proposed railway siding at Dharmapura in favour of Sri B. Rudrda Gouda, Sandur, Ballari District, as Legal representative of Late Sri B. Kumara Gouda (BKG) in the State of Karnataka, subject to the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The State Government shall ensure that the forest land to be diverted

- will be handed over only after required non- forest land for the project is handed over by the user agency;
3. The Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 19.351 ha of non-forest land which has already notified under Section 33 of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 by the GoK vide notification no. APAJI 03 FAF 2023 dated 08.02.2023 at the cost already deposited by user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted, and monoculture of any species may be avoided with provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;
  4. **The State Government shall submit the proposal for re-diversion in Form-E on the PARIVESH 2.0 portal for overlapped area with KMERC proposal prior to handing over the forest land to the User Agency and the State Govt. shall reconcile the overlapping area for the KMSCL and KMERC proposals which are under process in the State Govt;**
  5. **The State Government shall ensure that correct KML files of diverted area and CA area be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to handing over forest land to user Agency;**
  6. The State Government shall ensure that after construction of the proposed overhead conveyer belt, transportation of ore from the mines through existing road gets discontinued in a phased and time bound manner. To maximize utilization of the conveyor belt facility, user agency shall not transport any ore material through road beyond a permissible quantity as specified by the State Government from time to time;
  7. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
  8. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that overburden, if any to be generated from the project, shall not be dumped outside the width of the proposed conveyor corridor. The muck generated in the earth cuttings will be disposed of at the designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be allowed to roll down the hill slopes;
  9. Compensatory levies for this project, if any to be realized in future from the User Agency, shall be deposited to into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>);
  10. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that the trestles (pillars) of proposed conveyer belt are sufficiently high so that the movement of wildlife particularly elephant in the area is not hampered;
  11. The State Govt. shall ensure that User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan as per the R&R Policy of State Government, if applicable, in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of

- MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
12. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
  13. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  14. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
  15. The mining lease holder shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing of the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.;
  16. The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
  17. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
  18. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
  19. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
  20. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
  21. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
  22. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
  23. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
  24. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
  25. The user agency to take up protection & conservation measures for wildlife found in areas in consultation with State Forest department;
  26. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate

- Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
27. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year;
  28. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 15.10.2019 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and the user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, complete compliance of FRA, 2006, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
  29. The Violation of any of the conditions mentioned above shall amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.16 of consolidated guidelines and clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:-**

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. DDGF (C), MoEF&CC's RO at Bengaluru.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.