

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi: 1100 03,  
**Dated:07-11-2024**

To

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

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Private Limited, Ballari, for non-forestry use of 6.6978 ha. of forest land (revised from 12.4724 ha.) near Dharmapura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing closed Pipe Conveyor System from Ramanadurga Iron Ore Mine (RIOM ML No. 2141), Ballari, Karnataka.-(Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/39394/2019). regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 07 FFM 2020 dated 15.07.2020 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 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 24.03.2022 read with the letter dated 12.05.2023 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 07 FFM 2020 (e) dated 19.09.2024 and vide letter dated 23.10.2024 '**final approval**' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Private Limited, Ballari for non-forestry use of 6.6978 ha. of forest land (revised from 12.4724 ha.) near Dharmapura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing closed Pipe Conveyor System from Ramanadurga Iron Ore Mine (RIOM ML No. 2141), Ballari, Karnataka State, 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 6.6978 ha of non-forest land (notified as PF vide Government Karnataka's notification no. FEE 60 FAF 2024 dated 23.05.2024) at the cost already deposited by user agency as per the approved CA plan by the State Forest Department;
4. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the approved Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan, at the cost of the already deposited by the user agency in the area;
5. The State Government shall ensure that, 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>);
6. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
7. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
8. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
9. 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;
10. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
11. 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;
12. 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;
13. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
14. 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;
15. 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;
16. 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;
17. The user agency to take up protection & conservation measures for

- wildlife found in areas in consultation with State Forest department;
18. 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;
  19. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions and for which they has submitted the undertakings to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year;
  20. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 30.10.2017 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;
  21. 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> December, 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.