8-107/2014FC 1/83025/2024

File No.: 8-107/2014-FC Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi – 110003

Dated: **25-09-2024**

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Subject: Diversion of 149.3002 ha of forest land for Open cast Iron Ore Mining in favour of M/s Ojaswi Marble & Granite Pvt. Ltd. in District Sikar, Rajasthan - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Rajasthan letter No. P. 1(11) Van/2014 dated 03.12.2014 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980. After careful examination and recommendation of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act, 'in-principle' approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 26.05.2023 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government 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.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. P.1(11)Van/2014 PART dated 30.08.2024 'Final/Stage-II approval' of the Central Government is hereby accorded under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 for diversion of 149.3002 ha of forest land for Open cast Iron Ore Mining in favour of M/s Ojaswi Marble & Granite Pvt. Ltd. in District Sikar, Rajasthan State, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- I. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- II. No mining shall be done in a width of 150 meters on both side of the water course and regular monitoring of the silt levels in the water body will be done by the State Forest Department:

III. Green belt shall be created in a width of 100 meters on both side of the water course;

- IV. The Compensatory afforestation over equivalent identified non-forest land of 149.30 ha (notified as per Notification No. P.2 (42) Van/2024 dated 18 July, 2024 and Notification No. P.2 (38) Van/2024 dated 2 July, 2024) (135.03 ha in Udaipur District and 14.27 ha. in Pratapgarh District) shall be raised by the State Forest Department as per the approved CA scheme for 10 years. The balance seedling shall be planted over242.31 ha degraded forest land (DFL) [(226 ha DFL in Udaipur District and 16.31 ha DFL in Pratapgarh District] as per the prescription of the Working Plan at the project cost.
- V. **Safety Zone Management**:- Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by this Ministry;:
- a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;;
- b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
- c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- d. Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department. The degraded forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF&C with shape files before Stage-II approval and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approval Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department; and
- e. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
- VI. The State Government shall ensure that process for settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been completed in accordance with the relevant guidelines prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated

- 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013;
- VII. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
- VIII. 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;
 - IX. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual self-compliance report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry by the end of March every year regularly. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Regional Officer (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
 - X. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
 - XI. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co- terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and Rules framed there under;
- XII. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- XIII. 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;
- XIV. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- XV. 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;

- XVI. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- XVII. 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 to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- XVIII. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- XIX. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, 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;
- XX. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 as issued by this Ministry's on dated 29.12.2023;
- XXI. The State Government and User Agency shall ensure compliance of all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter of even number dated 26.05.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency. Further State govt shall also ensure the compliance of other Acts, rules and guidelines as applicable in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-(Suneet Bhardwaj) Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- 1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- 2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur
- 3. The DIGF(Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Gandhinagar.
- 4.The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.
- 5. User Agency