

**F. No. 8-16/2000-FC (pt.)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi-110 003  
Dated: 23rd March, 2016

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests)**  
Forest and Revenue Department,  
Government of Uttarakhand,  
Dehradun

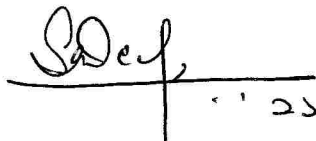
**Sub: Grant of approval for renewal, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for collection of minor minerals for a period of ten years from 1380.03 hectares of reserve forest land located in river bed of river Ganga and its tributaries in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand -regarding.**

Sir,

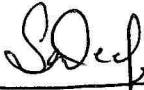
I am directed to refer to the Government of Uttarakhand letter No. 81/7-1-2012-900(4124)/2012 dated 10.12.2012 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for renewal of approval for collection of minor minerals for a period of ten years from 1380.03 hectares of reserve forest land located in river bed of river Ganga and its tributaries in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand. Government of India vide its letter 8-16/2000 FC dated 28-10-2002 had accorded permission for collection of minor mineral from 2900 ha (corrected to 1380.03 ha) forest land for 10 years. After careful consideration 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 renewal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 24.09.2014 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. 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 Government of Uttarakhand letters No. 168/1G-3736 dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, letter no. 3463/11C(Hari) dated 29.05.2015, letter no. 374/1G-3736 (Hari) dated 31.07.2015, , letter no. 693/1G-3736(Hari) dated 26.08.2015, letter no. 2451/ 1G-3736 (Hari): Dehradun dated 22.02.2016, final approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for grant of approval for renewal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for collection of minor minerals from 1380.03 hectares of reserve forest land located in river bed of river Ganga and its tributaries in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand for a period of ten years subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation which has been assigned to execute the project shall deposit Rs. 90.50 lakhs every six months for a period of 10 years to the state government for carrying out compensatory work and river training programme.
- (iii) The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and MOEF

  
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- and CC.
- (iv) All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred online to Ad-hoc CAMPA in concerned saving Bank Account in the Corporation Bank, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi;
  - (v) The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required, as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986;
  - (vi) The user agency shall place environment clearance to the project before standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and comply with the additional conditions, the Standing Committee of the NBWL may stipulate;
  - (vii) To ensure extraction of minerals in a sustainable manner the user agency shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure for engagement of labourers for extraction of the minor minerals from the forest land proposed for diversion;
  - (viii) The State Government shall constitute a committee under Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Uttarakhand and having the representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Wildlife Institute of India and NGOs such as WWF-India, WTI, IUCN *etc.* as its members to review annually the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions and issue appropriate direction to the User Agency in case of any deviation. The collection of minor minerals after 31<sup>st</sup> day of January in a year shall be allowed only after receipt of certificate from the Monitoring Committee that the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded under the FC Act, 1980 and the instructions issued by the Monitoring Committee have satisfactorily been complied in collection of the minor minerals during the previous calendar year;
  - (ix) Fifty percent of the net profit earned by the user agency from the collection of minor minerals shall be deposited to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttarakhand. The amount to be deposited in the SPV shall be used exclusively for river training activities and management & protection of forest & wildlife in vicinity of forest land utilised for collection of minor minerals;
  - (x) The total quantity of minor minerals extracted during a year shall not be more than the quantity that may be sustainably harvested as per the report submitted by the CSWCRTI, Dehradun;
  - (xi) Extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to middle half of the width of river bed after leaving intact the one-fourth of width of the river bed along its each bank;
  - (xii) To ensure maintenance of river geometry, collection of minor minerals during a working season shall start from centre of the river width and shall gradually extend to the boundary of the permissible area. The maximum permissible depth for collection of minor minerals at centre of the river width shall be limited to 3m and it shall gradually reduce till it reaches boundary of the permissible zone;
  - (xiii) To regulate and maintain record of the quantity of minor minerals extracted during a season, the State Forest Department shall set up adequate number of check posts during the collection season;
  - (xiv) Extraction of minor mineral shall be restricted from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May of the subsequent year;
  - (xv) Minor minerals shall be collected manually by using hand tools. Use of explosive and heavy machineries for breaking/collection of minor minerals shall be strictly prohibited;
  - (xvi) Collection time shall be from sun-rise to sun-set;
  - (xvii) No labour camp shall be set up in the forest area for the labourers engaged in collection of the minor minerals;
  - (xviii) Breaking of boulders shall be undertaken outside the forest boundaries;
  - (xix) The labourers engaged in collection work will be provided free fuelwood/alternate source

  
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- of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.
- (xx) The boundary of the forest land being diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing, and distance from adjoin pillars etc.
- (xxi) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xxii) The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009, in support thereof;
- (xxiii) Any other condition that the Central Regional Office of this Ministry, Dehradun and the State Government of Uttarakhand may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xxiv) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully



(Sandeep Sharma) 23/3/16

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Dehradun.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
4. User Agency.
5. Forest Conservation Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.



(Sandeep Sharma) 23/3/16

Assistant Inspector General of Forests