



No.5-ORA521/2022-BHU

18th August, 2022

To

The Addl. Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Proposal for assignment of forest land on lease under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 involving forest area of 575.16 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL) for Kottameta Limestone mining in Katamateru village under Malkangiri Tahasil of Malkangiri District, Odisha.

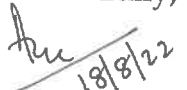
Ref: Ministry's letter No.8-18/2022-FC dated 14.07.2022.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am to inform that the site inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by Shri Balaji Kari, AIGF (C) on 06.08.2022. The site inspection report along with recommendation of the undersigned is attached for kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As state above.

Yours faithfully,


18/8/22
(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

RECOMMENDATION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)

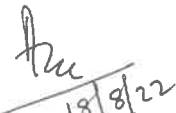
The proposed site was inspected by Shri Balaji Kari, AIGF (C) along with DFO, Malkangiri and representative of User Agency. As per the site inspection, the following has been reported.

- 1) No violation of FC Act, 1980 has been reported by the DFO and RCCF. During site inspection no violation was observed.
- 2) The applied area is outside the Eco-sensitive Zone/National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 3) The nearest National Park is Kanger Ghati in Chhattisgarh State, which is at a distance of about 35 Km.
- 4) No tree felling is required in the instant proposal as it is the case of approval under Section 2 (iii) of FC Act, 1980.
- 5) The density of vegetation has been reported to be 0.35 (Eco-Value Class-III).

As reported by the State Govt., Kottameta Limestone Block is a part of the Jeypore-Bastar basin of Puranas over a stable basement of Archaean formations. The block was initially prospected during 1963-66 by the Directorate of Mining & Geology, Odisha and the preliminary estimate indicated 71 million tonnes of cement grade limestone. The Directorate of Mining & Geology subsequently took up a detail assessment of grade wise resources during 1981-84 at the request of Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha Limited (IDCOL) and established a total indicated resource of 98.69 million tones of limestone with average CaO content of 45.865%.

Total land involved in this mining lease is 802.255 Ha, comprising of 575.160 Ha of forest land and 227.095 Ha of non-forest land. Out of total 575.160 Ha of forest land involved in this project, 186.22 Ha is PRF and 338.94 Ha is Revenue Forest land.

Since, mining of limestone is site specific activity, so the proposal may be considered under Section 2 (iii) of FC Act, 1980. However, the project authority has to submit detail proposal under Section 2 (ii) of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forestry activity.


18/8/22
(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF PROPOSAL FOR PERMISSION UNDER SECTION-2 (iii) OF FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980 FOR GRANT OF LEASE OVER 575.16 HA OF FOREST LAND IN VILLAGE KATAMATERU OF KOTTAMETA LIMESTONE BLOCK (AUCTIONED BLOCK) ALLOTTED TO M/s DALMIA CEMENT (BHARAT) LIMITED UNDER MALKANGIRI FOREST DIVISION OF MALKANGIRI DISTRICT.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 06.08.2022 along with Shri Pratap Kottapalli, DFO, Malkangiri, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Sr. GM-Corporate Affairs, Sri Rakesh Mohanty, Senior Manager-Corporate Affairs, Shri Malaya Maruta Muduli, Senior Manager – Mines and other officials from Forest Department, User agency and District Administration.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The legal status of forest land is as follows:

PRF	186.22 Ha.
Revenue Forest	388.94 Ha.
DLC	Nil
Total	575.16 Ha.

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.

Sl. No.	Name of the Forest Division	Name of the Village / Tahasil	Total Forest Land required for the project in Ha.						Non-forest Land involved in the project in Ha.		Total Non-Forest Land in Ha.	Grand Total Area in Ha. (9+12)
			RF	PRF	Rev. Forest	DLC Forest	Any other Forest	Total Forest (4 to 8)	Govt. Land	Pvt. Land		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Malkangiri	Katamateru/ Malkangiri	0	186.22	388.94	0	0	575.16	77.755	149.34	227.095	802.255

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of building (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

No.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

The Total cost of the Project is reported to be 23171 Lakhs.

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5. Wildlife:

As reported by the DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division fauna such as Semnopithecus entellus (Hanuman Langur), Vulpes bengalensis (Fox), Canis aureus (Jackal), Hystrix indica (Porcupine), Panthera pardus (Leopard), Melursus ursinus (Sloth Bear), Lepus nigricollis (Hare), Sus scrofa (Wild Pig), Axis axis (Spotted Deer), Pavo cristatus (Peacock), Milvus migrans (Common Kite), Spilopelia chinensis (Spotted Dove), Bungarus fasciatus (Banded Krait), Varanus flavescens (Yellow Monitor Lizard), Grey jungle fowl etc. have recorded from the applied area.

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

The DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division in Site Inspection Report has reported that the applied area is not involved with any eco-sensitive zone/ National Park / Sanctuary.

6. Vegetation:

The density of vegetation is reported to be 0.35 (Eco Value Class-III) . It is observed to be tropical dry deciduous forest.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled.

Not applicable at this stage.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Not applicable at this stage.

(b) Important species:

Kendu (Diospyros melanoxylon), Mango (Mangifera indica), Harida (Terminalia chebula), Kusum (Schleichera oleosa), Mahul (Madhuca indica), Jamu (Syzygium cumini), Bija (Pterocarpus marsupium), Mundi (Mitragyna parviflora), Gambhari (Gmelina arborea), Tentuli (Tamarindia indica), Sahaja (Terminalia tomentosa), Dhura (Anogeissus latifolia) etc. are major species among flora observed during site inspection.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

Not applicable at this stage.

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

Not applicable at this stage.

7. Background note on the proposal:

As reported M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (hereinafter be known as DCBL) is one of India's pioneer cement companies. DCBL operates with a manufacturing capacity of 35.9 MTPA, across 14 cement plants and grinding units spread across 10 states. To augment raw material requisite for cement manufacturing, DCBL participated in the auction of Kottameta Limestone Block as notified by Govt. of Odisha and became preferred bidder. Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued by Govt. of Odisha, Department of Steel and Mines on 27th Jan 2017 vide letter no. IV(MISC)SM-09/2017/850/SM.

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8. Compensatory afforestation:

As reported, the Compensatory Afforestation is not required for this proposal at this Stage.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

Not Applicable

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:

Not Applicable

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view:

Not Applicable

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

Not Applicable

(e) Map with details:

Not Applicable

(f) Total financial outlay:

Not Applicable at this stage.

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

As reported by the DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division and RCCF, no violation has been reported under FC, Act 1980. During site inspection also on 06.08.2022, no violation was observed.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

As per report of the DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division, the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan are not required.

11. Reclamation plan:

The approved Mining plan along with progressive mining closure plan of Kottameta Limestone Block has been approved and submitted by M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.

Details and financial allocation:

Financial Assurance Plan countersigned by IBM, has been submitted.

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12. Details on catchment and command area under the project

Not Applicable

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir

Not Applicable

13. Cost benefit ratio:

The Cost-Benefit analysis is not required for this proposal at this stage.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ State

Government:

Recommended by PCCF, Odisha / State Government.

15. Recommendations of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:

Enclosed separately

16. Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

N.A.

17. Utility of the project:

The project will reportedly generate employment for about 77 persons directly. In addition, about 865 people will be benefited indirectly.

Numbers of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project

Not reported.

18.

(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

As reported, there is no protected Archeological structure / Heritage site / Defense establishment or any other monuments located in the area.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/ forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

The DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division has reported that there is no protected Archeological structure / Heritage site / Defense establishment or any other important monuments located in the area.

19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

The nearest National Park is Kanger Ghati in Chhattisgarh State, which is at a distance of about 35kms.

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20. Any other information relating to the project:

- i.** During the site inspection, the Boundary pillars have been found to be erected and are intact.
- ii.** This is a project for consideration under Section 2 (iii) of the FC Act. hence felling of trees, detailed land use plan, effect of removal of trees has not been considered during the site inspection.
- iii.** The proposal is for mining of Limestone which is a site-specific activity. Hence, may be considered for approval under Section 2(iii) of the F(C) Act.
- iv.** When the permission is granted under Section 2 (iii) of the FC Act, it shall be only for execution of lease deed and not for undertaking any mining activity for which the User agency has to apply under Section 2(ii) of the F(C) Act subsequently.



[Balaji Kari]

AIGF (Central)

IRO - Bhubaneswar

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