

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated: 26th Oct, 2022

To,
The Special Chief Secretary (Forests),
EFS&T Department,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Sub: Diversion of 649.3014 ha forest land in Ramavaram RF of Ramavaram Range of Kothagudem forest division for grant of mining lease for proposed venkateshkhani OCP from underground rights to surface rights in Kothagudem area in Bhadradri Kothagudem District in favour of M/s SCCL.-Regarding (Online proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Govt. of Telangana's letter no.232/For.I(1)/2021 dated 18.02.2021 on the above-mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, it is informed that the matter was discussed in the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 21.09.2022. The detailed minutes of the said FAC meeting is uploaded in the parivesh.nic.in. After through deliberation, the Committee deferred the proposal in want of:-

- i. A study to be carried out by IIFM Bhopal on the Cost-Benefit analysis on conversion of underground Mines to open cast mines and the cost of the study will be borne by User Agency. The Cost-Benefit Analysis shall account for the ecological/ecosystem services provisions from the proposed mining area/landscape.
- ii. The details/KML files of the DFL identified for carrying out one half times CA w.r.t the safety zone may be provided.
- iii. The State Govt. may comment on the dumping of the material in Goutham Khani Open Cast Mining and its impact on the approved Mining closure plan/R&R plan based activities.
- iv. Considering the area to be diverted is very large a biodiversity impact assessment study may also be carried out by reputed institution. The cost for the study will be borne by the User Agency and the study report shall be submitted to this Ministry as early as possible.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the above-mentioned information/documents to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Dr. Dheeraj mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.