

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 30th September, 2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Goa,
Panaji Goa

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 72.08 ha. (70.20 ha. mining + 1.88 ha for Approach Road) of forest land for non-forestry purpose under mining lease bearing No.3/FeMn/79 located at village Caurem, Quepem Taluka in South Goa District & Division, in favour of M/s. Naraina Sinai Quritonim. (Online proposal No.FP/A/MIN/153183/2022).-regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Goa's letter No.6-13 (2016)-2022-23/FD/2635 dated 14.09.2022 forwarding the above cited subject proposal for prior approval of the Central Government under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that after preliminary scrutiny of the proposal the below mentioned shortcoming were observed:

- i. The Cost benefit analysis report submitted is not signed by the concerned DFO.
- ii. The copy of certificate issued by Chief Secretary regarding non-availability of suitable non-forest/revenue forest land was not found along with the proposal.
- iii. The State Govt. may be requested to submit the details of the safety zone as per para 7.9 of the comprehensive guidelines issued by this Ministry in 2019.
- iv. As per the DSS analysis, the user agency has provided the KML file of the proposed approach road in the form of line feature instead of polygon feature. Therefore, area of the approach road cannot be calculated. The same is required as polygon feature.
- v. The State Govt is requested to comment whether the instant proposal recommended by the State for consideration of this Ministry is in accordance with the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dt 07.02.2018 in S.L.P. (C) No. 32138 of 2015.

- vi. The DFO in SIR mentioned that the lease area is fully proposed for diversion as per existing FCA rules and guidelines. However, as per the mining plan approved by competent authority 28.30 ha is proposed to be used for 5 years i.e. till 2026 - 27. The plan w.r.t. to remaining land is not clear. In this regard the State Govt. may offer comments.
- vii. The State Govt is requested to identify the CA land (non-forest land) as per the provisions mentioned in para 2.3 (v) of the handbook of FCA 1980 & FC rules 2003 issued in 2019. Further, the State is also requested to submit the details w.r.t. corresponding CA scheme, site suitability certificate along with the KML files to this Ministry.
- viii. From the Mining plan submitted it is learnt that the Mining lease was granted on 1979 to 1999 which was extended to 2029. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to provide details of the activities carried out by the User Agency in the intervening period along with the requisite approvals and documents related to compliance related to FCA and other acts and rules if any.

Considering the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/clarification/documents as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the instant proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Goa, Panaji.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Goa, Panaji.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore of MoEF&CC.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.