

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

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

**Dated 10 January, 2022**

To

The Secretary (In-charge)  
Government of Uttarakhand  
Dehradun

**Subject: Proposal for non-forestry use of 150 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Uttarakhand Van Vikas Nigam, Khanan Prabhag, Ramnagar for mining of minor Minerals (RBM) from Kosi-Dabka part 2 Rivers falling in the jurisdiction of Tarai West, Ramnagar Forest Division and District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/MIN/60921/2020) Reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your online proposal No. **FP/UK/MIN/60921/2020** 26.11.2021 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to inform that examination of the said proposal in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. Forest area proposed for mining is located at an aerial distance of approximately 8.50 km from the boundary of Corbett Tiger Reserve, therefore, comments of Chief Wildlife Warden of the State may be obtained and submitted to the Ministry.
- ii. Status of District Survey Report, if any, prepared for Ramnagar and Udham Singh Nagar Districts of the State in accordance with the Guidelines on Sustainable Sand Mining -2016 issued by the Ministry in January 2020 vis-à-vis recommendation made thereof on the mining of RBM proposed in the extant proposal.
- iii. The State Government may submit its comments whether the report prepared by the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation is in conformity with the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2016 or otherwise.
- iv. Purpose wise breakup of forest area, as well as non-forest and, if any involved, as envisaged in the approved Mining Plan, may be provided by the State.
- v. A copy of the Mining Plan and status of its approval by the concerned competent authority in the State needs to be submitted by the State.
- vi. The State Government may also intimate to the Ministry, methods of mining envisaged in the proposal i.e. whether mechanised or manual?
- vii. As the mining has been proposed over an area of 150 ha which may result into additional transportation loads and increased biotic pressure on the surrounding resources, therefore, evacuation plan of the RBM to be mined out from the area may be intimated by the State.
- viii. Estimation of cost benefit ratio does not account for all parameters specified in the Guidelines dated 01.08.2017 issued by the Ministry, incorporated at Annexure -III of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Therefore,

- cost benefit analysis needs to be re-visited by the State to ensure accounting of all specified parameters using appropriate techno-economic tools.
- ix. Details of approvals, if any, granted by the Ministry in the past in Ramnagar and Udham Singh Nagar Districts in the river beds of Kosi and Dabka Rivers may be intimated by the State along with approved capacity of RBM as envisaged in the EC.
  - x. Detail of employment potential of the project has not been provided in the online Part-I of Form-A. Similarly, Part-IV does not have date recorded on it. Necessary rectifications need to be made and accordingly revised Part-I and Part-IV may be updated online in Form-A.
  - xi. Relevant portion of the Management Plan which prescribed mining activities in the area in question be provided. Besides this, the relevant portion of prescriptions such as Wildlife Overlapping Working Circle of the approved Working plan should also be referred to cross check the claims regarding presence of wildlife and wildlife corridors in the area.
  - xii. As per Supreme Court orders the revenue earned in such cases should go for conservation work. In that case proposal of DFO for creating SPV and depositing money is tenable or not need to be clarified by the State.
  - xiii. The CA land is being done in double degraded forest land. Does it a civil soyam land? If so would it be mutated in the name of Forest Department and handed over for management?
  - xiv. It may be clarified whether the CA land proposed is covered with any working plan if so whether these land are recommended for plantations?
  - xv. The report of DFO tells that there are crushers established along the river and it would not be possible to check the illegal activity. What kind of crushers are they? Can they lead to illegal mining in the area? Is there any case related to illegal mining in the Range or land in question need to be looked into.

**Yours faithfully,  
Sd/-**

**(Dharmdeo Rai)**

**Deputy Inspector General of Forests**

Copy to:

1. Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun
3. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun
4. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of the FC Division for uploading on the PARIVESH portal.