

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ

ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003.

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Office of
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

E-office File No. KFD/HoFF/A52K(GFL)/32/2019-FC

E-76115

Date 10-12-2020

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EDS Query

Urgent

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests

Kanara Circle, Sirsi

Sub: Diversion of 2.632 hectare of forest land in Khurse village F.Sy No. 103, Sampakhanda Hobli, Sirsi Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Sirsi Forest Division) for establishing Stone Quarry for exclusive use of National Highway project in favour of the M/s RNS Infrastructure Limited, Bengaluru

Proposal No. FP/KA/QR/39019/2019

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 11-08-2020 [Stage-I Proposal] and 15-09-2020 [communication of GOK EDS Query]
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 43 FLL 2020 (e) dated 02-09-2020 [EDS query dated 03-09-2020]
 3. Project Director, RNS Infrastructure Limited, Bengaluru letter No. RNSIL/NHAI/KS/ss/2020/29 dated 27-10-2020 [online reply dated 28-10-2020 to GOK EDS Query]
 4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division letter No. A4/GFL/Land/Khurse/CLUP/CR-13/19-20/2020-21/2010 dated 06-11-2020 [online reply dated 06-11-2020 to GOK EDS Query]
 5. Your Office letter No. B2/GFL/CR-12/2019-20 dated 09-11-2020 [online reply dated 09-11-2020 to GOK EDS Query]

This office vide Ref (1) letter dated 15-09-2020 had sought a report after spot inspection on the availability/non-availability of jelly stones/ boulders as stated by User Agency in its letter dated 14-08-2020 and also a report along with documents regarding the auction of the jelly stones obtained from the competent authority, if the stones are not available.

In response, based on the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division's letter (Ref -4), you vide Ref (5) have furnished the replies based on the report submitted by the User Agency without spot inspection either by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division or by you. In this connection, the following facts need consideration.

1. The NHAI has taken up/ has been taking up a number of Highway construction/improvement/widening works in Uttar Kannada District (*particularly in Karwar and Honnavar Divisions*). These works often involve cutting of hillsides in many stretches resulting into excavation of huge quantity of boulders which cannot be utilized *in situ*.
2. The NHAI had all along been requesting the Karnataka Forest Department to allot the excavated boulders for construction. Accordingly, this office vide Circular No. A5(2).Misc. (Qry).CR-8/2017-18 dated 08-06-2018 has already permitted it to utilize such boulders subject to certain conditions.
3. In response, the NHAI has utilized only a part of such excavated boulders and has been requesting for removal of the balance boulders. Accordingly, the Department of Mines and Geology has conducted the e-auction of some of the excavated boulders. Even then, not all such excavated boulders could be e-auctioned. About 11 lakh MT of such excavated boulders were estimated by the Department of Mines & Geology to be available (before auction) in Karwar Division itself.
4. More such boulders will be excavated in due course, as the NHAI works are still ongoing in field, including the Kumta-Sirsi Road.

In light of the above facts, **you are instructed once again to submit your detailed report after proper verification of records including site inspection along with NHAI authorities regarding the availability of boulders excavated already/ to be excavated in due course in Karwar, Honnavar and Sirsi Divisions. It also needs to be verified whether the User Agency has duly explored the possibility of proposing the existing old/ abandoned stone quarries in the District for the purpose and why they are not being considered for FC purpose rather than proposing fresh unbroken forest area in Western Ghats for quarrying purpose.**

The online link is hereby transferred to you for further action.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi for information and necessary action as stated above.

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar/ Honnavar Division(s), for information and with an instruction to provide the factual information to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi as stated above

Copy to the Project Director, RNS Infrastructure Limited, Naveen Complex, 7th Floor, 14, M.G. Road, Bengaluru for information and further necessary action as above.


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O/C