

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮುಖ್ಯಅರಣ್ಯಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ  
(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರಕಛೇರಿ  
Office of  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯಭವನ, 18ನೇಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ  
ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003  
Aranya Bhavan, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross  
Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003  
Telephone : 080 2334 6472  
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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/48/2019-FC  
Encl:

E-84336

Date 23-12-2022

[EDS Query]

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To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests  
Ballari Circle, Ballari

**Sub:** Diversion of 1.4406 hectare of forest land in Ubbalagundi Extension Reserved Forest, Ubbalagundi village. Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Approach Road to Ubbalagundi Iron Mine ML No.008 (located partly in adjoining Donimalai Block Forest and partly in Ubbalagundi Extension RF) in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited, Tornagallu

**Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/39765/2019 [FORM-A]**

- Ref:** 1. This office letter of even number dated 03-09-2022 to Government of Karnataka [Stage-I proposal]  
2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 70 FLI 2022 (e) dated 13-10-2022 [addressed to GOI, seeking Stage-I proposal] and 16-12-2022 [communication of GOI EDS query]  
3. Government of India letter No. F.No.4-KRB1386/2022-BAN dated 09-12-2022 [EDS Query]

With regard to above, the proposal was submitted by this office vide Ref (1) seeking Stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the Government of Karnataka and by the State Government vide Ref (2) letter dated 13-10-2022 to the Central Government. The Government of India vide Ref (3) has stated that "the area proposed for diversion was inspected on 16.11.2022. During the site inspection it came to notice that there is already a road to the instant mine which is primarily passing through the non-forest land and was being used by earlier lessee. The existence of non-forest alternatives was not even mentioned in the proposal. The FC Act and Guidelines envisage that the existing non-forest land should be the priority for use, and forest land should be considered only in case of non-availability of forest land. Therefore, it is requested to re-examine the proposal for approach road in forest land and the user agency/ State authorities may be directed to use the existing road in the non-forest area, as the same road were used by the earlier lessee also.

It was learnt that similar proposals for approach road in forest area are in the pipeline, inspite of existence of roads through now-forest lands. Hence, the matter may be suitably decided by the State Government instead of leaving the issue of approach road decision to the user agency and proposal for use of forest land

*when suitable non-forest alternatives exist, against the tenets of forest conservation laws."*

In this regard, you are directed to communicate the above to the concerned jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests to re-examine the proposal for approach road in the forest land.

The copies of letters under Ref (2) and Ref (3) are enclosed herewith for your information. The FC web portal link is hereby transferred for further forwarding to the User Agency through Deputy Conservator of Forests.



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

Copy to the:

1. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for **information and you are directed to take necessary decisions as above in other similar cases were suitable non-forest alternative exists as per the principles of the forest conservation laws.**
2. M/s JSW Steel Limited, P.O. Vijayanagar-583 275 Ballari District for **information and requested to use the existing approach road which is passing through the non-forest area, as the same road were used by the earlier lessee as per the directions of Government of India as above.**



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
CLIMATE CHANGE, INTEGRATED REGIONAL  
OFFICEKendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E& F Wings, 17<sup>th</sup>  
Main Road, II<sup>nd</sup> Block, Koramangala, Bangalore  
- 560 034,Tel.No.080-256359012, E-Mail: rosiz.bng-  
mef@nic.inF.No.4-KRC1358/2022-BAN/ 1053  
Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

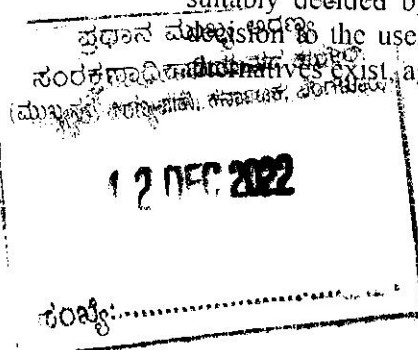
To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of  
Karnataka, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,  
M.S. Building, Dr.Ambedkar  
Veedhi,  
Bangalore - 560 001.Subject: Diversion of 1.4406 ha. of forest land in Ubbalagundi Extension Reserved  
Forest, Ubbalagundi village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for approach road to  
Ubbalagundi Iron Ore Mine ML No. 008 (located partly in adjoining Donimalai  
Block Forest and partly in Ubbalagundi Extension RF) in favour of M/s. JSW Steel  
Ltd, Torangallu-reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Government letter No.FEE70FFM 2022 (e) dated 13.10.2022 on the subject mentioned above. In this regard, it is to inform that the area proposed for diversion was inspected on 16.11.2022. During the site inspection it came to notice that there is already a road to the instant mine which is primarily passing through the non-forest land and was being used by earlier lessee. The existence of non-forest alternatives was not even mentioned in the proposal. The FC Act and Guidelines envisage that the existing non-forest land should be the priority for use, and forest land should be considered only in case of non-availability of forest land. Therefore, it is requested to re-examine the proposal for approach road in forest land and the user agency/ State authorities may be directed to use the existing road in the non-forest area, as the same road were used by the earlier lessee also.

It was learnt that similar proposals for approach road in forest area are in the pipeline. inspite of existence of roads through non-forest lands. Hence, the matter may be suitably decided by the State Government instead of leaving the issue of approach road to the user agencies and proposals for use of forest land when suitable non-forest alternatives exist, against the tenets of forest conservation laws.



Yours faithfully,

(M.K. Shambhu)

Dy. Inspector General of Forest

Copy to:

1. The The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) / Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
3. M/s JSW Steel Limited, P.O. Vidyanagar, Village Toranagallu, Taluk Sandur District Bellary- 583 275, Karnataka.

(M.K. Shambhu)

Dy. Inspector General of Forest