



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
CLIMATE CHANGE, INTEGRATED REGIONAL  
OFFICE



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F.No.4-KRC1358/2022-BAN/ 1053  
Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022  
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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 decision to the user agencies and proposals for use of forest land when suitable non-forest alternatives exist, against the tenets of forest conservation laws.

olc

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

O/c

MS  
9/11/2022