

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

## GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ  
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ

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



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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A52K(GFL)/32/2019-FC  
Encl: 2 sets

E-76115

Date 27-01-2022

03-02

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department  
M.S. Building, Bengaluru – 560 001

Sir,

**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/QRV/39019/2019 [FORM-A]**

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 11-08-2020 [Proposal to GOK to consider for Stage-I] and 06-11-2021 [communication of GOK EDS Query]
  2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 43 FLL 2020 (e) dated 04-08-2021 [Stage-I proposal] and 05-10-2021 [online communication dated 07-10-2021 of the GOI EDS query]
  3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bengaluru letter F.No. 4-KRB 1310/2021-BAN/693 dated 28-09-2021 [EDS query]
  4. Project Director, RNS Infrastructure Limited, Bengaluru letter No. RNSIL/NHAI/KS/ss/2020/29 C dated 23-11-2021 [online reply dated 25-11-2021]
  5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division letter No. A3/GFL/Land/Khurse/CLUP/CR-13/19-20/2020-21/1962 dated 24-12-2021 [online reply dated 27-12-2021]
  6. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle letter No. B2/GFL/CR-

12/2019-20 dated 30-12-2021 [online reply dated 03-01-2022 to GOI EDS Query]

With reference to the above proposal seeking Stage-I approval submitted by this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 11-08-2020 and by the Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 04-08-2021, the Government of India vide Ref (3) has raised an EDS Query seeking certain additional information. The same has been communicated by the Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 05-10-2021 to this office. Accordingly, this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 06-11-2021 has forwarded the same to the field officers and further to User Agency.

In response, the User Agency vide Ref (4) has submitted the information sought by the Government of India, that has been forwarded to this office through FC web portal by the field officers vide Ref (5) & (6).

Based on the reply furnished by the User Agency and the information available in the proposal, the following reply is submitted to the query raised by Government of India.

Government of India Query dated 08-09-2021	Reply
<p>1 NHAI project can easily source their material from non-forest area, as the stone quarry materials are widely available outside the forest area. PCCF (HoFF) in his letter dated 11/08/2021 has reported that NHAI has other road projects on Goa-Karwar-Mangalore stretch wherein the road work is under progress and huge quantity of boulders have been extracted and also available for further extraction. Therefore, the rationale for recommending the instant proposal may be furnished. Further, the proposal needs to be examined in light of Para 1.15 of the Comprehensive guidelines on Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User Agency has replied that they have explored all the alternative possibilities and only after exhausting all other possibilities unavoidably resorted to the present proposal as detailed below.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative 1:</b> The have identified availability of building stone in Survey No 533/1 and 533/2, Village Muroor, Hobli Kojalli, Taluk Kumta, Uttara Kannada district. But after conducting detailed survey it was found that some houses are situated within a distance of 67 meters, 89 metres and 105 metres etc from the proposed stone quarry location. As per the KMMC (Karnataka minor Mineral Concession) rules permission for quarrying will not be granted if residential buildings are located within distance of 200 meters. Hence this location could not be selected.</p> <p><b>Alternative 2:</b> Survey no 30, Village Nagur, Hobli Mirjan, taluk Kumta, District Uttara Kannada: In this location too after examination, 10 residentials buildings were found to be located within 200 meters. Further, there was natural water</p>

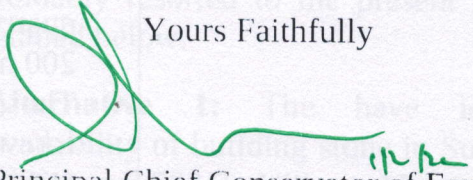
	(Conservation) Act, 1980 and the requisite details are to be provided.	<p>source and a temple was also located in close proximity. Hence this alternative also could not be selected.</p> <p><b>Alternative 3:</b> Survey no 31/1, Village Mugvekanavadi, Hobli Mirjan, Taluk Kumta, Uttara kannada district. After examination, it was found that this location was falling within Eco sensitive zone.</p> <p><b>Alternative 4:</b> Abandoned stone quarry in forest survey no 103, village Khurse, Hobli sampakhanda, Taluk Sirsi, District Uttara Kannada. On examination, it was found that this abandoned stone quarry lies within a distance of 200 metres from the public road (NH 766E) and as per KMMC rules permission for quarrying will not be granted if the same is located within a distance of 200 hundred metres from public road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moreover, the proposed stone quarry is located at a distance of just 95 meters from the above- mentioned abandoned quarry. It is practically like an extension of this abandoned quarry that fulfils the statutory requirement of 200 m distance criterion from the highway.</li> <li>Thus, after examining 3 locations in non-forest lands, and one abandoned quarry in forest location, they have unavoidably zeroed in on the present proposal in forest survey no 103 in Khurse village, Sampakhanda Hobli, Sirsi Taluk, Uttara Kannada. letter <b>(Copy enclosed as ANNEXURE-1)</b></li> </ul>
2	Approved Quarry Plan from the Competent Authority.	The User Agency vide Ref (4) letter <b>(Copy enclosed as ANNEXURE-II)</b> has provided the proposed quarry plan. Along with this, User Agency mentioned as the quarry plan can be got approved only after getting the forest clearance.
3	Status of Environmental Clearance for the proposed quarry.	User Agency stated that the forest clearance is a prerequisite to apply for environment clearance. After obtaining Stage-I clearance, they will apply for SEIAA and SEAC for environment clearance.
4	PCCF (HoFF) in his report	The forest land proposed for diversion is located

<p>has mentioned that the forest area is located within 10 km default Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Sanctuary. As per the Ministry's guidelines No.1-9/2007-WL-I (Pt) dated 09/02/2011 regarding declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone Around Protected Area, the mining activities are listed under "Prohibited" category. Therefore, comments of State Government in this regard may be furnished.</p>	<p>within 10 Km of default Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Sharavathi Valley LTM (Lion-Tailed Macaque) Sanctuary notified vide Government of Karnataka notification No. FEE 12 FWL 2019 dated 07-06-2019.</p>
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**It is requested to forward the above information to the Government of India in response to the EDS query for further needful.**

Above information is also being uploaded online.

Yours Faithfully

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

**Copy to the:**

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle Sirsi for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division for information.
3. The Project Director, RNS Infrastructure Limited, Naveen Complex, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 14, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001 for information.



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ದಿನಾಂಕ 3-2-2022

S-00pm

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