

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
Office of
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ
ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003
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E-Office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-2(GFL)/42/2020-FC

E - 316958

Date As per e-sign

To,

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

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 8.803 hectare of forest land in Arga Village F.Sy No. 52A, Bada Hobli, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for establishing Stone Quarry and its Approach Road, Dumping yard in favour of M/s Shivaprasad Industries, Kodibag, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District.

Proposal No. FP/KA/QRY/31539/2018 [FORM A]

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 24-03-2025 [additional information], 29-07-2025 [EDS query].
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 10 FFM 2022 (e) dated 14-05-2025 [forwarding information to GOI] 14-07-2025[Communication of GOI EDS query]
 3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi letter F.No. 4-KRB1352/2022-BAN/166 dated 27-06-2025 [EDS query].
 4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division letter No. B4/GFL/FCA/CR-12/2019-20 dated 01-12-2025 [reply submitted to CF Kanara].
 5. Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle letter No. B2/GFL/Quarry/CR-17/2021-22 dated 19-12-2025 [reply submitted to this office].

With reference to the above subject, this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 24-03-2025 had submitted additional information to the Government of Karnataka seeking 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 14-05-2025 had forwarded the proposal to Government of India.

In response, the Government of India vide Ref (3) has sought certain information on five specific points, Government of Karnataka vide ref (2) dated 14-07-2025 had communicated the same to this office which has been further communicated by this office vide ref (1) dated 29-07-2025 to the user agency and field officers.

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar vide ref (4) has submitted the information to Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle who, after verification, vide ref (5) has submitted it to this office.

Based on the reports obtained from the Field officers, the information is as follows.

1	<p>Comments of the State Government on the matter that PCCF & Nodal Officer in his report has stated that only 2 ha out of the proposed area should be used for quarrying.</p>	<p>The User agency has submitted the proposal for 8.803 ha. of forest land for establishing stone quarry and its approach road, dumping yard.</p> <p>The then PCCF & Nodal Officer vide letter dated 28-01-2022 had recommended for 2 ha quarrying activity excluding dumping site and other associated activities.</p> <p>Therefore, consider the quarrying activity for 2 ha and remaining area for other associated activities.</p>
2	<p>The copy of the Government guidelines which state that no quarrying within 200m from NH shall be submitted.</p>	<p>As per report of Senior geologist, Department of Mines and Geology, Uttara Kannada District vide letter 14-11-2025.</p> <p>General conditions of Quarrying lease and license. "No person shall carry on or allow to carry on any quarrying operations within a distance of fifty meters if no blasting is involved (and one hundred meters if control blasting is involved) and two hundred meters if blasting is involved from the boundary of any railway line, reservoir, tank bund, canal or other public works and public structures or any public road, or building. The holder of a quarrying lease or license shall also abide by such conditions as the Competent Authority may impose to carry on quarrying operations in the vicinity of the aforesaid building or places. No quarrying within 200 m from NH and any public structure. Quarry proposed area not having any structures within 200 meters, hence proposal may be considered"</p> <p>The proposed quarry site is more than 200 m from the National Highway – 66, hence question of no quarrying within 200 meter does not arise. The copy enclosed as ANNEXURE-I.</p>

3	<p>Since NFL is also involved in the proposal, the Labour shed and dumping area has been proposed over forest land. The State Govt. shall explore the possibility to relocate these activities to NFL and modified proposal may be submitted.</p>	<p>The user agency has stated that the Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, has advised that the quarry area and dumping yard be located adjacent to each other for operational convenience and effective monitoring. Accordingly, the layout has been revised and submitted after inspection by the Department of Mines & Geology.</p> <p>It is further stated that the extent of private land (NFL) is limited and located at a considerable distance from the quarry site, which would increase production costs and lead to additional environmental impacts due to vehicle movement. The user agency has also indicated that the NFL land is uneven and unsuitable for storing quarry materials or for installation of power and DG-related infrastructure. Based on these considerations, the locations for the dumping yard, storage of quarry materials, and installation of power-related equipment have been proposed within the forest land, which is nearer to the National Highway and facilitates ease of service and connectivity.</p> <p>The user agency has also submitted that relocating the labour shed and dumping yard would necessitate modification of the already approved quarry plan.</p>
4	<p>Justification for minimum use of forest land for approach road shall be provided.</p>	<p>As per the inspection reports of field officers, the approach roads marked as Approach Road-1, Approach Road-3, and Approach Road-5 are old existing roads connecting the earlier quarry area to the Malki land, with widths ranging from 4.5 m to 5.5 m. Approach Road-6 is also an existing road connecting the Malki land to the National Highway, having a width of 6.5 m to 7.0 m. Similarly, Approach Road-7 is an existing road linking Approach Road-3 to the quarry material storage location.”</p> <p>“Approach Road-4 is the only newly proposed road, connecting Approach Road-3 to the newly identified quarry area. This</p>

		<p>stretch includes approximately 200 m with a gradient of 15–20%, followed by about 100 m with a gradient of 25–30%, and a remaining stretch of roughly 50 m with a milder slope. The proposed area supports wildlife movement, including wild pigs, hares, porcupines, leopards, and sambar. The area also contains various vegetation and 1,382 trees as per the marking list submitted.</p> <p>“The user agency has stated that out of the seven approach roads indicated, six are existing roads already in use, and only one new road (Approach Road-4) is required to provide access to the proposed quarry site located within forest land. After considering the field conditions and operational requirements, the user agency has justified that the total forest area proposed for approach roads has been restricted to a bare minimum extent of 0.81618 ha.”</p> <p>“Based on the reports of the field officers and the justification furnished by the user agency, it is observed that except for Approach Road-4, all other roads included in the proposal are old existing roads that are presently being used. Though these existing roads have been included in the diversion proposal, they form the essential access network required for the functioning of the quarry project. Hence, the requirement of forest land for approach roads appears to be the minimum necessary.</p>
5	<p>Over mining leases of stone quarrying granted in the vicinity of the project along with their KML may be submitted along with details sought in EDS no.1 of RO regarding points raised in Para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines may be submitted by the State Government.</p>	<p>The details of stone quarry leases granted in the vicinity of the proposed quarry site are furnished below, along with the corresponding KML files.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within approximately 400 meters from the proposed quarry site, an existing quarry lease in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Kodibag, Karwar, is located in Arga Forest Sy. No. 52A1A over an extent of 0.494 ha. This area was diverted for stone quarrying as per Stage-II

		<p>approval of the Government of India vide No. 4-KRB-754/2010-BAN/1531 dated 13-07-2012 and Government of Karnataka order No. FEE-160-FFM-2010 dated 13-08-2012. At present, this quarry is not operational. A renewal proposal has been submitted by the user agency and is under process; approval has not yet been accorded.</p> <p>As per the user agency, this quarry is situated adjacent to NH-66 (Panvel–Kanyakumari). The six-laning work on this highway has commenced from Kanyakumari to Mangalore, and upon extension of the six-laning towards the Mangalore–Panvel stretch, issues relating to maintenance of safe distance from the National Highway may arise. This may restrict future quarrying operations irrespective of the remaining lease period.</p> <p>2. Within approximately 4000 meters from the proposed quarry site, another existing quarry pertaining to the Seabird Project is located, wherein 24.50 ha of forest land in Aligadda Hill, Sy. No. 142 A.A of Kodar Village, Uttara Kannada District, was diverted for quarrying purposes in favour of the Deputy Director General, Project Seabird Phase-IIA. This diversion was approved vide Government of India letter No. 4-KRC-1116/2017-BAN/868 dated 20-10-2017. The quarry is presently operational. The KML files of both quarry areas are enclosed.</p> <p>The above information is submitted in response to the observations regarding the requirement of providing details of mining leases in the vicinity of the project, as well as the clarification sought under EDS No. 1 relating to Para 7.8 of the Consolidated Guidelines.</p>
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		<p>Points raised in para 7.8 of consolidated guidelines:</p> <p>Maximum points are covered in already submitted quarry plan and if points remained user agency is ready to abide the conditions. These conditions may be included in the diversion approval order.</p> <p>There is a huge demand of stone quarry material for various developmental projects in the coastal areas especially in Karwar and Ankola Taluk. The extent of private land holding is very less and the district has almost 80% of the geographical area under forest. There is no Government land or private land for quarrying purpose. There is a need for stones/ boulders for various Government project as well as other developmental projects. And he is registered Class-I contractor in the name of M/S Ramshree Global Constructions Pvt. Ltd. (firm). This firm is registered with Military Engineer Services (MES) in SS Class, public Works Department (PWD) (Class-I Contractor), Karnataka Power Corporation Limited and Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL). The material quarried will be fully utilizing for Government Developmental Works. This quarry does not fall under any already declared Eco-sensitive zone.</p>
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Agreeing with the report, it is forwarded for your consideration and further needful in the matter. The relevant documents in 3 sets are submitted here with for kind perusal and further action.

Yours Sincerely

Digitally signed by
MAHESH BASAVARAJ SHIRUR
Date: 07-03-2026 16:06:00

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

Copy to

1. Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle, Sirsi for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division, Karwar for information.
3. M/s Shivaprasad Industries, Engineers & Contractors, Shree Ram Complex, G. Floor, NH-17 Kodibag, Karwar -581 303 for information.



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ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ



ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕೆನರಾ ವೃತ್ತ, ಶಿರಸಿ - ೫೮೧ ೪೦೨

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KANARA CIRCLE, SIRSI-581402.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ (PHONE): 08384-236335, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ (e_mail) : ccfkanaracircle@gmail.com

No: B2/GFL/ Quarry/CR-17/2021-22

Date: -12-2025.

To,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)
Aranya Bhavan, Malleshwaram 18th cross,
Bangalore-560003

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 8.803 ha.of forest land in Arga Village F.Sy.No.52A of Baad Hobli,Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada district for establishing stone quarry and its approach road, dumping yard in favour of M/S.Shivprasad Industries, Kodibag, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District.

- Ref:1) Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi letter No:KRC/1352/ 2022/BAN Dated: 27-06-2025.(EDS query)
- 2) Government of Karnataka letter No:FEE10FFM 2022 (e) dated: 16-04-2025 (EDS reply), 21-07-2025 (communication of GOI EDS query).
- 3) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Bengaluru's Letter No.A5(2) GFL.CR.-35/2013-14.E-office File No.KFD/HOFF/A5-2(GFL)42/2020-FC dated:04-08-2025.
- 4) This office Letter No.B2/GFL/Quarry/CR-17/2021-22 .dated:05-08-2025 and 08-12-2025
- 5) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division, Karwar letter No: B4/GFL/FCA/CR-12/2019-20 Dated:01-12-2025 & 11-12-2025.

With reference to the subject cited above, the Government of India has sought certain additional information through EDS queries as per reference (1). The Government of Karnataka and your office have communicated the same requirements to this office vide references (2) and (3). Subsequently, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar division has forwarded this EDS Queries to the user agency and the field officers to seek the required information.

The user agency has furnished the additional information sought by the Government of India, and the field officers have also submitted the required details.

Accordingly, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar Division has reviewed the documents and submitted the information as under.

1	Comments of the State Government on the matter that PCCF & Nodal Officer in his report has stated that only 2 ha out of the proposed area should be used for quarrying.	The User agency has submitted the proposal for 8.803 ha. of forest land for establishing stone quarry and its approach road, dumping yard but PCCF & Nodal Officer in his report has stated that only 2.00 ha. out of the proposed area should be used for quarrying. The matter may be examined by the competent authority and further action may be taken as deemed appropriate.
2	The copy of the Government guidelines which state that no quarrying within 200m from NH shall be submitted.	As per EDS we sought guidelines from Senior geologist, Department of Mines and Geology Uttara Kannda District, and they replied as under as per their letter no gabhui/ukji/mahithi/2025-26/2430 dated:14-11-2025. General conditions of Quarrying lease and license. "No person shall carry on or allow to carry on any quarrying operations within a distance of fifty meters if no blasting is involved (and one hundred meters if control blasting is involved) and two hundred meters if blasting is involved from the boundary of any railway line, reservoir, tank bund, canal or other public works and public structures or any public road, or building. The holder of a quarrying lease or license shall also abide by such conditions as the Competent Authority may impose to carry on quarrying operations in the vicinity of the aforesaid building or places. No quarrying within 200 m from NH and any public structure. Quarry proposed area not having any structures within 200 meters, hence proposal may be considered" (copy of the said letter enclosed for reference). The proposed quarry site is more than 200 m from the National Highway - 66, hence question of no quarrying within 200 meter does not arise.
3	Since NFL is also involved in the proposal, the Labour shed and dumping area has been proposed over forest land. The State Govt. shall explore the possibility to relocate these activities to NFL and modified proposal may be submitted.	The user agency has stated that the Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, has advised that the quarry area and dumping yard be located adjacent to each other for operational convenience and effective monitoring. Accordingly, the layout has been revised and submitted after inspection by the Department of Mines & Geology. It is further stated that the extent of private land (NFL) is limited and located at a considerable

		<p>distance from the quarry site, which would increase production costs and lead to additional environmental impacts due to vehicle movement. The user agency has also indicated that the NFL land is uneven and unsuitable for storing quarry materials or for installation of power and DG-related infrastructure. Based on these considerations, the locations for the dumping yard, storage of quarry materials, and installation of power-related equipment have been proposed within the forest land, which is nearer to the National Highway and facilitates ease of service and connectivity.</p> <p>The user agency has also submitted that relocating the labour shed and dumping yard would necessitate modification of the already approved quarry plan.</p> <p>The matter may be examined by the competent authority, and further action may be taken as deemed appropriate.</p>
4	Justification for minimum use of forest land for approach road shall be provided.	<p>As per the inspection reports of the Range Forest Officer and Assistant Conservator of Forests, the approach roads marked as Approach Road-1, Approach Road-3, and Approach Road-5 are old existing roads connecting the earlier quarry area to the Malki land, with widths ranging from 4.5 m to 5.5 m. Approach Road-6 is also an existing road connecting the Malki land to the National Highway, having a width of 6.5 m to 7.0 m. Similarly, Approach Road-7 is an existing road linking Approach Road-3 to the quarry material storage location.”</p> <p>“Approach Road-4 is the only newly proposed road, connecting Approach Road-3 to the newly identified quarry area. This stretch includes approximately 200 m with a gradient of 15-20%, followed by about 100 m with a gradient of 25-30%, and a remaining stretch of roughly 50 m with a milder slope. The proposed area supports wildlife movement, including wild pigs, hares, porcupines, leopards, and sambar. The area also contains various vegetation and 1,382 trees as per the marking list submitted.”</p> <p>“The user agency has stated that out of the seven approach roads indicated, six are existing roads already in use, and only one new road (Approach Road-4) is required to provide access to the proposed quarry site located within forest land.</p>

		<p>After considering the field conditions and operational requirements, the user agency has justified that the total forest area proposed for approach roads has been restricted to a bare minimum extent of 0.81618 ha.”</p> <p>“Based on the reports of the field officers and the justification furnished by the user agency, it is observed that except for Approach Road-4, all other roads included in the proposal are old existing roads that are presently being used. Though these existing roads have been included in the diversion proposal, they form the essential access network required for the functioning of the quarry project. Hence, the requirement of forest land for approach roads appears to be the minimum necessary.</p>
5	<p>Over mining leases of stone quarrying granted in the vicinity of the project along with their KML may be submitted along with details sought in EDS no.1 of RO regarding points raised in Para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines may be submitted by the State Government.</p>	<p>The details of stone quarry leases granted in the vicinity of the proposed quarry site are furnished below, along with the corresponding KML files.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within approximately 400 meters from the proposed quarry site, an existing quarry lease in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Kodibag, Karwar, is located in Arga Forest Sy. No. 52A1A over an extent of 0.494 ha. This area was diverted for stone quarrying as per Stage-II approval of the Government of India vide No. 4-KRB-754/2010-BAN/1531 dated 13-07-2012 and Government of Karnataka order No. FEE-160-FFM-2010 dated 13-08-2012. At present, this quarry is not operational. A renewal proposal has been submitted by the user agency and is under process; approval has not yet been accorded. <p>As per the user agency, this quarry is situated adjacent to NH-66 (Panvel-Kanyakumari). The six-laning work on this highway has commenced from Kanyakumari to Mangalore, and upon extension of the six-laning towards the Mangalore-Panvel stretch, issues relating to maintenance of safe distance from the National Highway may arise. This may restrict future quarrying operations irrespective of the remaining lease period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Within approximately 4000 meters from the proposed quarry site, another existing quarry pertaining to the Seabird Project is

located, wherein 24.50 ha of forest land in Aligadda Hill, Sy. No. 142 A.A of Kodar Village, Uttara Kannada District, was diverted for quarrying purposes in favour of the Deputy Director General, Project Seabird Phase-IIA. This diversion was approved vide Government of India letter No. 4-KRC-1116/2017-BAN/868 dated 20-10-2017. The quarry is presently operational. The KML files of both quarry areas are enclosed.

The above information is submitted in response to the observations regarding the requirement of providing details of mining leases in the vicinity of the project, as well as the clarification sought under EDS No. 1 relating to Para 7.8 of the Consolidated Guidelines.

Points raised in para 7.8 of consolidated guidelines:

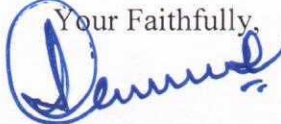
Maximum points are covered in already submitted quarry plan and if points remained user agency is ready to abide the conditions. These conditions may be included in the diversion approval order.

There is a huge demand of stone quarry material for various developmental projects in the coastal areas especially in Karwar and Ankola Taluk. The extent of private land holding is very less and the district has almost 80% of the geographical area under forest. There is no Government land or private land for quarrying purpose. There is a need for stones/ boulders for various Government project as well as other developmental projects. And he is registered Class-I contractor in the name of M/S Ramshree Global Constructions Pvt. Ltd. (firm). This firm is registered with Military Engineer Services (MES) in SS Class, public Works Department (PWD) (Class-I Contractor), Karnataka Power Corporation Limited and Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL). The material quarried will be fully utilizing for Government Developmental Works. This quarry does not falls under any already declared Eco-sensitive zone.

Based on the field observations and the records available, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar division has submitted the report that, the proposal for diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Survey No. 52A of Arga Village, Karwar Taluk, may be placed before the competent authority for further examination. The competent authority may take an appropriate view, keeping in consideration the ecological sensitivities of the area, previous approvals granted in the region, and the relevant provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Hence, the report submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar division vide ref(5) dated 11-12-2025 is attached with this letter and is further submitted for your kind perusal and consideration.

Thanking you,

Your Faithfully,


Chief Conservator of Forests,
Kanara Circle, Sirsi.