



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST  
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

No.M1/MNG/NMDC/M.L.No.1111/2018-19

Dated: 28.10.2021

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 75.92 ha forest land for Construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry pipeline Corridor & Water Pipeline Corridor at Donimalai of M/s, National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur, (FC Online Application No. FP/KA/OTHERS/14576/2015) – Reg.

- Ref: 1) Letter No. 8-1/2021-FC Dt.06.08.2021 of the Government of India  
2) Letter No. FEE 16 FFM 2021(e) Dt. 25.06.2021 of the Government of Karnataka  
3) Letter No. A(5)/MNG/CR-15/2015-16 Dt.09/10.08.2021 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bangalore  
4) Letter No.M1/MNG/RENW/CR-11/1990-91(NMDC) Dt.23.08.2021 of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari  
5) This office even number letter Dt.27.08.2021.  
6) Letter No.DNM/ENV/89/2021/2484 Dt.02.09.2021 of M/s. NMDC Limited, Donimalai.  
7) Letter No. ACF/TA/NMDC/1111/Screen plant/2021-22 Dt.04.09.2021 of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari  
8) Letter No.DNM/ENV/89/2021/2484 Dt.15.09.2021 of M/s. NMDC Limited, Donimalai.

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With reference to the above subject, the Government of India has sought certain information regarding diversion of 75.92 ha forest land for Construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry pipeline Corridor & Water Pipeline Corridor at Donimalai of M/s National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur (FC Online Application No. FP/KA/OTHERS/14576/2015) vide letter under Ref (1).

Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari have directed undersigned to submit details of information as sought by Government of India vide letter under Ref (3) & (4). In this regard, the undersigned has directed the field officers and the User Agency to submit the information vide letter under Ref (5). The same has been received through Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari vide letter under Ref (7). Further, the User Agency has provided additional information regarding the proposed project vide letter under Ref(8).

Upon perusal of the reports and verification of relevant documents available with the office of the u/s, I am submitting herewith following information as sought by Government of India;

Sl. No.	Particulars	Reply												
i)	<p>The User Agency has applied the instant proposal under the other category in PARIVESH portal instead of Mining Category. The components mentioned for diversion seems to the ancillary activities of Mining. In this regard the State Govt. may provide its Justification.</p>	<p>It is observed from the reports of the User Agency that, the proposed project of construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry pipeline Corridor &amp; Water Pipeline Corridor at Donimalai by M/s. National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai involving diversion of 75.92 hectares of Forest Land is a standalone project/activity and it is not ancillary activities of Mining.</p> <p>Refereeing to the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee constituted by the MoEF&amp;CC held during 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 for grant of Environment Clearance, the UA has stated that the proposed activity is independent of mining. Here in the committee was of the view that '<i>the proposal needs to be transferred to the EAC (Industry Sector) as the proposal is only for the beneficiation process which is outside the lease area</i> and the project proposal falls in Schedule 2(b) as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006'. (Minutes of the meeting are enclosed as <b>Annexure-I(A) &amp; I(B)</b>).</p> <p>The justification submitted by the User Agency is enclosed as <b>Annexure-I(C)</b>.</p>												
ii)	<p>From the documents submitted by the State Govt it is not clear that whether these activities were already part of the earlier approved Mining Plan (ML No.2396).</p>	<p>The proposed activities are not part of the earlier approved Mining Plan of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML 2396). The proposed project of construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry pipeline Corridor &amp; Water Pipeline Corridor at Donimalai by M/s. National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai involving diversion of 75.92 hectares of Forest Land is a standalone project/activity and it is not ancillary activities of Mining.</p>												
iii)	<p>The State Govt. is requested to submit the detail of total mining lease of the entire Area.</p>	<p>NMDC Ltd. Donimalai is having two operational mining leases in the area the details of which are as follows: -</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="774 1668 1396 1937"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>ML No.</th> <th>Extent obtained under MMRD (In ha)</th> <th>Extent obtained under Forest Clearance (In ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2396</td> <td>597.54</td> <td>608.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1111</td> <td>639.80</td> <td>341.20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above approvals under MMRD of both leases are enclosed as <b>Annexure-II</b>.</p>	Sl. No.	ML No.	Extent obtained under MMRD (In ha)	Extent obtained under Forest Clearance (In ha)	1	2396	597.54	608.00	2	1111	639.80	341.20
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2	1111	639.80	341.20											

iv)	<p>The State Govt. is requested to submit the details of total Forest land involved in the entire Mining lease and the details regarding how much Forest Area has already been diverted.</p>	<p>NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Complex is having two operational mining leases in the area the details of which are as follows: -</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="746 320 1369 689"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>ML No</th> <th>Total Forest land involved which approved under MMRD (In ha)</th> <th>Extent obtained under Forest Clearance (In ha)</th> <th>Un-diverted land</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2396</td> <td>608.00</td> <td>608.00</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1111</td> <td>503.51 (487.01 ha +16.50 ha outside lease area)</td> <td>341.20</td> <td>162.31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above Forest Clearance copies of both leases are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-III</u></b>.</p>	Sl. No.	ML No	Total Forest land involved which approved under MMRD (In ha)	Extent obtained under Forest Clearance (In ha)	Un-diverted land	1	2396	608.00	608.00	-	2	1111	503.51 (487.01 ha +16.50 ha outside lease area)	341.20	162.31
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2	1111	503.51 (487.01 ha +16.50 ha outside lease area)	341.20	162.31													
v)	<p>The State Government is requested to submit the approved mining plan and valid documents including the lease period.</p>	<p>The approved Mining Plan of both the mines i.e. Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2396) &amp; Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 1111) along with the valid lease documents are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-IV (a) &amp; IV(b)</u></b>.</p>															
vi)	<p>The State Government may clarify whether the instant proposal is part of the old proposal which was granted Stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter No.8-107/91-FC dt.06.02.2009. KML file for the entire area of lease along with the separate file of non-forest area with the lease shall be provided.</p>	<p>No, the instant proposal of construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry pipeline Corridor &amp; Water Pipeline Corridor at Donimalai by M/s. National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai involving diversion of 75.92 hectares of Forest Land is a standalone project/activity, is not part of the old proposal which was granted Stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter No.8-107/91-FC dt.06.02.2009.</p> <p>There is no link b/w the present proposal with the referred proposal for which Stage-II approval was granted vide MoEF&amp;CC letter No. 8-107/91-FC Dt. 06.02.2009. The approval referred here in is for mining at Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML No.2396).</p> <p>KML file for the entire area of lease (Donimalai Iron Ore Mine; ML No. 2396) along with the separate file of non-forest area with the leases are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-V</u></b>.</p>															
vii)	<p>The CB ratio uploaded by the User Agency has not been verified / signed by the Competent Authority in the Forest department. Moreover, it shows higher value and shall be re-</p>	<p>The User Agency has submitted the revised CB ratio as per the Guidelines issued by the MoEF&amp;CC, New Delhi vide letter Dt. 28.03.2019. Copy of the same is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VI</u></b>.</p>															

verified by the State Government. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the revised CB ratio approved as per the latest guidelines.

viii) The CA scheme for 12 years is uploaded in the PARIVESH portal and the same is not legible. In this regard a legible copy of CA scheme may be uploaded in PARIVESH by the State Government.

The Revised CA scheme (Based on the CSSR-2020-21 Rates) for 12 years is enclosed as **Annexure-VII**. A legible copy of the same is uploaded.

ix) The present status and KML file of the CA areas w.r.t the earlier granted Stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-107/1991-FC Dt.06.02.2009 may be forwarded to the Ministry.

CA land details with regard to the Stage-II FC in respect of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2396) granted approval vide Ministry's letter no. 8-107/1991-FC dated: 06.02.2009 are as following;

M/s NMDC Ltd. (ML No. 2396) was assigned **608 ha** for mining related activities vide Stage-II approval of Ministry letter No. 8-107/1991-FC Dt. 06.02.2009.

However, the UA was stipulated (vide Government of Karnataka vide order No. FEE 61 FFM 2013 Dt.01.02.2014) to raise Compensatory Afforestation over **554.50 Ha** of non-forest land for the reason that 53.50 Ha of leased land for which FC has been granted was already Broken Up area.

the Details non-forest CA land provided by the UA over which the Department has raised Plantation are as follows;

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Details of CA land (Sy. No. & Village)	Extent in Ha.
1	Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML No. 2396)	129, Gudekote	283.00
		909, Gudekote	49.00
		236, Halasagar	112.00
		488, Halasagar	73.00
		1, Kochigere	37.50
<b>Total CA area</b>			<b>554.50</b>

KML file of the CA areas w.r.t the earlier granted Stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter No. 8-107/1991-FC Dt. 06.02.2009 are enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**.

x) The complete compliance of the earlier diverted area i.e 608ha which was granted Stage-II / final approval vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-107/91-FC dt.06.02.2009 may be submitted by the State Government.

Copy of the compliance report of the earlier diverted areas of 608 Ha (DIOM) which was granted Stage-II approval vide MoEF letter No. 8-107/91-FC Dt. 06.02.2009 and subsequent Order of the GoK vide No. FEE 154 FFM 2008 Dt. 25.08.2011 as submitted vide letter Dt.21.03.2020 is enclosed as **Annexure-IX**.

xi) The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over C&D class over Non-Forest Revenue land equal to the forest land being diverted. But the proposed CA land is reported to be not suitable for carrying out plantation. As per the existing Rules and Guidelines number of plants to be planted over non-Forest land identified for CA shall be at least 1000 plants per hectare. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to identify the degraded forest land where the balanced seedling can be planted and forward the KML files of the site this Ministry with the revised CA Scheme.

CA Land identified for the instant proposal for diversion of 75.92 Ha of Forest Land is not suitable for afforestation (Revised Suitability Certificate issued as directed at Clarification No. xii).

Thus, as per Clarification issued by the GoI in Para 2.4 of FC Guidelines, **double the extent of degraded Forest Land** identified at Sy. No. 243 to 261,263,264,265 & 296 of Boppalapura Village of Hagari Bommana (HB) Halli taluk, Huvinahadagali Range, Ballari District over an extent of 151.84 Ha. The KML file of the degraded forest land and revised CA scheme are enclosed as **Annexure-X**.

xii) The Site suitability certificate submitted by the Concerned DFO mentions about an area of 451.228 Ha, but the area requirement for CA is instant proposal is 75.92Ha. In this regard, a revised site suitability may be submitted and clear recommendation for the CA area over non-forest land may be provided. From the perusal of documents, it is not understood that why the CA suitability certificate of 451.228 Ha. has been submitted.

The Revised CA Suitability Certificate for 75.92 Ha of Non-Forest revenue land (C&D) is enclosed as **Annexure-XI**.

Initial CA Suitability was for issued for 451.228 as the UA (M/s NMDC) had proposed the said Non-Forest land area for multiple diversion proposals as detailed below;

Sl. No	Area identified at	Total Area in Sy.No. (in Ha)	Forest Area identified for the specific project	Extent of CA land Identified in Ha
1	Sy No. 295 of Appenahalli Village, Kudligi Taluk, Ballari District	451.228	1) Diversion of 235.64 ha for Regularization and infrastructures.	235.648
			2) Diversion of 159.01 ha for Mining (Additional area for ML No.1111)	159.01
			3) Diversion of 75.92 ha for Screening Plant, Tailing Dam etc.	56.572 (Remaining 19.348 Ha area identified in Sy. No.432 of

					Kasapura Village, Kudligi taluk, Ballari District)
					451.23
				Total	
xiii)	The proposal is not site specific and it is requested to explore non-forest area for establishing the proposed structures. The details about the alternate sites explored and identified for the instant proposal by the State Government shall be submitted.	Stating that existing mines of M/s NMDC Ltd and related infrastructure are situated in Forest Area and thus to optimise their utility the proposed forest land for the screening plant is selected.	The UA has justified selection of instant forest land (75.92 Ha in Donimalai Block of Sandur South Range) as same is selected upon reconnaissance survey and evaluation of all alternative possibilities. The UA has stated that they were bound to select instant Forest Area for the proposed project as there are no revenue lands available in the immediate vicinity & situating the said project in any other non-forest land and connecting the same to the existing facilities of NMDC would further involve diversion of forest land.	Further, referring to various reasons for selecting the said Forest Land for the proposed screening plant (vide letter Dt.15.09.2021) the UA has requested for consider the proposed forest land for diversion.	The justification provided by M/s NMDC Ltd in this regard are enclosed as <b>Annexure-XII</b>

This is for your kind information and needful action.

Yours Faithfully,

Sd/-

Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Ballari Division, Ballari

- 1) Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bangalore for kind information.
- 2) Copy to M/s. NMDC Donimalai, Sandur for information.

Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Ballari Division, Ballari

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09/10/2021  
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