

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Cirice, Ballari

Sir,

Sub : Diversion of Forest land over an extent of 1.645 ha for Pipe Conveyor Project of M/s. JSW Steel Ltd, Toranagallu.

Ref : 1) Letter No. A5(1)/MNG/CR.41/2016-17 Dated : 22.12.2017 of Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bangalore

2) Online Application No.FP/KA/Others/19136/2016 Dated:06.04.2017.

3) This office letter No. M1/MNG/JSW/Pipe/2017-18 dated:29.12.2017.

4) Letter No. ACF&TA/JSW/Pipe/2017-18 Dated : 03.01.2018 of Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari.

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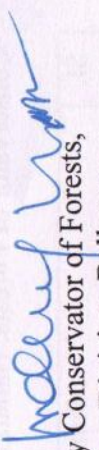
With reference to the above subject, I am here by submitting the specific remarks on the points raised by Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bangalore vide letter cited above at reference (1), after duly verification report submitted by Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari vide in his letter at reference(4) above.

Sl. No.	Point	Reply
1	Whether any of the land involved in the project (especially by Sy.No.224 of Bannihatti. village Section 4 proposed area) is located inside the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Daroji Bear Sanctuary? Yes/ No	Yes. Draft Notification of Daroji Bear Sanctuary dated : 22.09.2015 of Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, New Delhi. According to draft notification, Eco-sensitive zone is over an area of 132.016 sq. kms with an extent varying from 150 meters to 4.70 kms around the boundary of Daroji Bear Sanctuary. As per the draft notification, Sy.No.224 of Bannihatti village (section-4 proposed area) is outside the Eco-sensitive zone. The final notification of the Eco-sensitive zone is yet to be finalized and published by the Ministry. Hence, the default eco-sensitive zone of Daroji wildlife sanctuary is 10 km. Under this circumstance, Sy.No.224 of Bannihatti Village (i.e. Section-04 proposed area) falls under Eco-sensitive zone.

2	It is stated in item no. 1 (xi) of Part-II that there are no rare endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. Please re-examine this observation carefully and report the facts, making necessary correction through online, if required	The Flora and fauna observed in proposed area are, Flora: <i>Acacia catechu</i> , <i>Albizia amara</i> , <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> , <i>Cassia fistula</i> , <i>Carissa carandus</i> and <i>Dodonia viscosa</i> . Fauna: Hares, Peafowl, Sloth Bear, Wild boar Leopard, Grey partridge and Indian porcupine.
3	A clear opinion as to whether the project (pipe conveyer belt) is likely to have any adverse impact on the free movement of wild animals in the area, especially during night	The Pipe Conveyer belt is on columnar structures and it runs through periphery of forest boundary along with railway line and PWD road, under this circumstance, the impact on free movement of wildlife is minimum. However, it is recommended to fix the timings limit to operate pipe conveyer belt, to check the adverse impact on the free movement of wild animals in the area during night time.

The proposed forest land for Pipe Conveyer belt corridor is as per directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its W.P.No.562/2009 and guidelines issued by Central Empowered Committee(CEC) for transportation of minerals through Conveyer belt and Railway sidings which is Eco-friendly in nature compared to road transportation. Hence, the forest land proposed for diversion may be considered for laying pipe conveyer belt.

Your faithfully


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bellary Division, Bellary

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16/01/2018
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FORM – 'A'

PART – II

(To be filled by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)

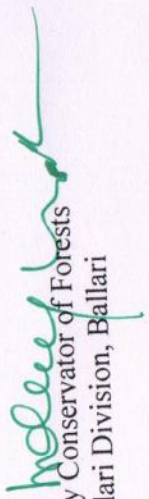
State Serial No of Proposal _____

7.		Location of the Project / Scheme: Pipe Conveyor belt corridor from Nandihalli Railway yard to JSW Plant infavour of M/s JSW Steel Ltd, Toranagallu.																															
i.	State/Union Territory	:	Karnataka																														
ii.	District.	:	Bellary																														
iii.	Forest Division	:	Bellary Forest Division																														
iv.	Area of forest land proposed for diversion (in ha.)	:	1.645 hectares. The details of Forest land proposed for diversion: <table border="1" data-bbox="630 186 1081 828"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Area proposed in Forest area</th> <th>Name of the Forest Block</th> <th>Village</th> <th>Forest land proposed in hectares</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Segment-A</td> <td>S.M.Block</td> <td>Lakshmipur</td> <td>0.135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Segment-B</td> <td>D.M.Block</td> <td>Taranagara</td> <td>0.250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Segment-C</td> <td>D.M.Block</td> <td>Taranagara</td> <td>0.350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Segment-D</td> <td>Sy.No. 224 of Bannihatti Village (Section-4 proposed area).</td> <td>Bannihatti</td> <td>0.910</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>1.645</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sl. No.	Area proposed in Forest area	Name of the Forest Block	Village	Forest land proposed in hectares	1	Segment-A	S.M.Block	Lakshmipur	0.135	2	Segment-B	D.M.Block	Taranagara	0.250	3	Segment-C	D.M.Block	Taranagara	0.350	4	Segment-D	Sy.No. 224 of Bannihatti Village (Section-4 proposed area).	Bannihatti	0.910	Total				1.645
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v	Legal status of forest	:	Reserve Forest Swamymalai & Donimalai Forest Blocks in Sandur South Range declared as Section-04 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 and Notified vide Notification No. FFD-29, FAF-84, Dated: 28.02.1985 and Sy.No. 224 of Bannihatti Village is proposed for Section-4 vide letter No. LND/Sec-04/Bly/CR-09/2013-14 dated: 07.01.2014.																														
vi	Density of vegetation.	:	Eco- class III, Southern Dry Deciduous Forest.																														
vii	Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class-wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed. In case of irrigation / hydel projects enumeration at FRL, FRL-2 meter & FRL-4 meter also to be enclosed.)	:	The proposed corridor passing through the periphery of Forest land. Where the tree growth is limited only clearing of shrubs and bushes and no felling of trees is required in proposed forest land.																														
viii	Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion.	:	The proposed area is subjected to soil erosion because of steep slope & poor vegetation. Hence, the user agency is required to take up soil & moisture Conservation works all along the pipe conveyor belt corridor.																														

ix.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	:	The proposed corridor passes through the periphery of the Forest boundary. The approximate distance from Forest boundary varies from 0 to 200 meters.
x	Whether forms part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	:	The proposed forest land is not part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. However, Sy.No.224 of Bannihatti village (Section-04 proposed area) is 7.90 km away from the Daroji Bear Sanctuary.
xi	Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area- if so details thereof	:	-Nil -
xii	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	:	The DRDO establishment is located within 2 kms from proposed Pipe Conveyor belt corridor. The M/s. JSW Steel Limited has not submitted NOC from competent authority. However, the user agency has been directed to submit the NOC from competent authority.
8.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	:	Yes, The proposed forest land for Pipe Conveyor belt corridor is as per directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its W.P.No.562/2009 and guidelines issued by Central Empowered Committee(CEC) for transportation of minerals through Conveyor belt and Railway sidings.
9.	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	:	- No-

10.	Details of compensatory afforestation scheme:		
i)	Details of non forest area/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	:	The user agency has identified non-forest land in Sy.No.2B/2 of Village Sy. No. 61-Gonal, Hospet taluk, Ballari District over an extent of (4.61 acres) 1.866 hectares for raising of CA. The non-forest land is mutated and transferred infavour of Forest Department.
ii)	Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	:	The map enclosed.
iii)	Detailed compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	:	As per the CAMPA guidelines, the afforestation scheme is implemented. Datasheet is enclosed.
iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme.	:	Rs. 2,72,000 x 1.645=Rs. 4,47,440/-
v)	Certificates from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and from management point of view. (To be signed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests).	:	Enclosed.
11.	Site inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in col. 7 (xi, xii), 8 and 9 above.	:	Site inspection report is enclosed.
12.	Division/District profile:		
i.	Geographical area of the district.	:	8420 Sq.K.M
ii.	Forest area of the district.	:	1349.53 Sq.K.M
iii.	Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.	:	6476.58 Ha and totally 91 cases covered

iv.	Total compensatory afforestation stipulated in the district/division since 1980 on (a) forest land including penal compensatory afforestation, (b) Non-forest land.	2342.49 Ha
v.	Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) 31.03.2017 on (a) Forest land (b) Non-forest land.	4131.92 Ha 2337.70 Ha 2728.00 Ha
13.	Specific recommendations of the DCF for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons.	As per directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its W.P.No.562/2009 and guidelines issued by Central Empowered Committee (CEC) for transportation of minerals through Conveyor belt and Railway sidings and less hazards involved in transporting of iron ore from mines. This proposal is recommended for Forest approval.


 Deputy Conservator of Forests
 Ballari Division, Ballari

Date : 26.10.2017.
Place : Bellary