

I/691801/2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ
ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ
Office of the
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/32/2020-FC

E-352151

Encl.:

Date 08-10-2024

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment
M. S. Building, Bengaluru

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 32.49 hectare of forest land (30.9 hectare for mining lease and 2.40 hectare for approach road) in Ramanamalai Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District [*Ramdev Iron Ore Mine ML No.2563; erstwhile C-category mine e-auctioned*] in favour of M/s MSPL Limited, Hosapete Ballari *the preferred Bidder in e-auction*

Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [FORM-A]

- Ref:**
1. This office even letter dated 03-08-2021 [*submission proposal seeking Stage-I approval*] and letter dated 22-11-2022 & 23-12-2022 [*communication of EDS query to CCF Ballari*]
 2. Government of Karnataka Order No. FEE 53 FFM 2022 (e) dated 13-10-2022 [*communication of the proposal seeking Stage-I approval*]
 3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru letter No.4-KRC1387/2022-BAN/920 dated 07-11-2022 & 02/06-12-2022
 4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division letter No. M1/MNG/MSPL/ML. 2563/2019-20 dated 15-09-2023 [*addressed to CCF, Ballari Circle reg submission of EDS reply to the GoI query dated 07-11-2022 & 02/06-12-2022*], 27-11-2023 [*addressed to UA directing to withdraw the online proposal*] and letter dated 13-06-2024 [*addressed to CCF Ballari reg seeking Stage-I approval for only approach road*]
 5. M/s MSPL Limited, Hospet letter dated 17-04-2024
 6. Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle letter No. M1/MNG/MSPL(LMC)/Renew/CR-22/2022-23/64 dated 28-06-2024 [*addressed to this office*]

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With regard to above, the proposal submitted by this office vide Ref (1) seeking in-principle Stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the Government of Karnataka. Further onward submission of the proposal was made by the State Government vide Ref (2) letter dated 13-10-2022 to the Central Government. The Government of India after examination of the proposal has requested to furnish some of the information vide Ref (3). The same has been communicated to the CCF Ballari Circle vide this office letter dated 22-11-2022 and 23-12-2022 and has been directed to get the information / documents from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division and submit the same to this office with specific opinion on the same at the earliest.

Accordingly, the DCF, Ballari Division vide Ref (4) letter dated 15-09-2023 addressed to CCF, Ballari Circle has submitted the reply to the query raised by the Government of India.

Sl. No.	Information sought	Information submitted
i	The permission obtained by State Government from Hon'ble Supreme Court for e-auction of ML No.2563 as sought by this office vide letter No.FCA/16.1/105/KAR/MIN/672 dated:30-09-2020 may be provided.	In this regard, the User Agency has submitted the Copy of the orders Dt.30.07.2015 & 13.09.2017 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. (Annexure-1) .
ii	PCCF while forwarding the proposal has reported that as per the joint survey conducted by CEC and as per digitization of sketch, the extent of mining lease is 30.09 ha. Further, it is also reported that certain extent of area is overlapping with adjacent mining leases and therefore, it was proposed to consider the forest clearance over and mining leases and therefore, it was proposed to consider the forest clearance over an extent of 32.4826 ha (i.e., 30.826 ha. for mining and 2.40 ha. for approach road). However, in Part-III, IV & V the entire area of 32.49 ha. i.e., 30.09 for mining and 2.40 ha. for approach road is recommended. This may be clarified.	M/s. MSPL Limited, Hospet has submitted proposal for diversion of lease for 30.09 ha. Out of this, 0.0074 hectares overlapped with M/s. Lakshmi Minerals, ML No.2545 (<i>which is already FC obtained, area to be exclude in instance proposal</i>) and 0.0003 hectares overlapped with M/s. A.M.Minerals ML No.2278 which is lease expired (<i>Area may be included in this instance proposal</i>). After reducing the overlapped area concluded as 30.0826 ha (30.09 ha – 0.0074 ha). Therefore, the Forest Clearance may be proposed over an extent 30.0826 hectares for mining and 2.40 hectares for Approach Road totaling 32.4826 hectares only. The same has been recommended by the DCF, Ballari Division vide letter Dt.27.04.2021 and also recommended in Part-II also.

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iii	As per the satellite imagery the non-forest land of 15.3 ha identified in Amagaon Village towards is already having vegetation. Therefore, it may be clarified whether the identified non-forest land can support planting of 1000 trees per ha as per FC guidelines. If not, the details alternate degraded forest land identified for planting of remaining plants may be furnished. The site suitability of non-forest land selected for CA may also be furnished.	Deputy Conservator of Forests, Balagavi Division, Belagavi has submitted revised CA suitability in Form-B and also mentioned degraded forest land details vide letter Dt. 17.01.2023. the same has been enclosed herewith as Annexure-2 .
iv	Cost Benefit Analysis Ratio may be furnished as per FC guidelines.	The User Agency has submitted Cost Benefit Analysis Ratio which is enclosed as Annexure-3 .
v	The entire copy of the Mining plan may be uploaded in the Parivesh portal with the annexures, appendix etc.	The entire copy of the Mining plan is uploaded by the User Agency in the Parivesh portal.
vi	KML file of the safety zone and map of proposed land use plan may be provided.	KML file of the safety zone and map of proposed land use plan is enclosed as Annexure-4 .
vii	The location details of degraded forest land identified for planting in lieu of safety zone may be provided	The location of degraded forest land selected in Sy.No.120 of Gollalingammanahalli Village, Gollalingammanahalli Reserved Forest, Sandur South Range, Sandur for plantation in lieu of safety zone area over an extent of 2.85 ha (1.90 ha X 1½ times). In this regard, Geo-referenced map, Google map, Village map, Toposheet map & KML file of the identified area are submitted as Annexure-5
The Government of India has raised another EDS query for this instant proposal vide letter Dt.02/06.12.2022		
	“The proposed area was inspected by Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Central) on 16.11.2022. During the inspection, it was noted that approach road to the mine is having an overlapping road with the mine of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals for which FC proposal is made by Lakshmi Minerals for 0.22 ha forest land. The instant User Agency also requires 1.30 ha of FC approved area of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals for approach road. Therefore, the proposal for approach road shall include diversion / re-diversion of these area in the proposal. It was also learnt during the site inspection that the earlier lessee	i) The User Agency has requested the M/s. Lakshmi Minerals for NOC over an extent of 0.22 ha which Stage-I approved in the name of the M/s. Lakshmi Minerals. ii) The User Agency has requested for re-diversion of 1.30 ha which is FC approved area of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals for approach road. The User agency has submitted approach road alternatives, but it is observed that, route No.1 i.e. passing through lease of M/s. Lakshmi Minerals over extent of 3.39 kms. Details of alternative map is enclosed as Annexure-7. Hence, for this stretch of

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was using a different road to the mine. Therefore, approach road alternatives should be examined properly and should be the last option and when it use is inescapable. The legal status of non-forest land of 0.73 ha required for approach road also needs to reconfirmed as to whether preferred and forest land or otherwise”	forest land, the User Agency should apply for re-diversion. In this regard, user agency has been directed by the undersigned to submit re-diversion proposal separately.
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Further, the earlier lessee M/s Kanhaiyalal Dudheria had identified C&D land in Sy No.156 of Rayapura village Ballari Taluk, Ballari District over an extent of 10.12 ha and in Sy No. 3 of Garaga Village Hospete Taluk, Vijayanagara District over an extent of 7.10 ha. However, this land is not transferred and mutated in favour of Forest Department.

In this regard, the DCF Ballari Division has requested the User Agency to identify CA land for remaining area of 17.19 ha (32.49 ha – 15.30 ha). Further to this, the User Agency has identified new CA land at under Sy No. 3 of Huland village, Khanapur taluk, Belagavi district, the same has to be mutated in the name of Forest Department.

Further, in continuation to his letter dated 15-09-2023, the DCF Ballari Division vide Ref (4) letter dated 13-06-2024 addressed to CF, Ballari Circle has submitted that the Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi vide letter No. FCA/16.1/105/KAR/MIN/159 Dt.09.10.2023 and Government of Karnataka vide Order No. FEE 43 FMM 2019 (e), have accorded transfer of FC Clearance from FC lease holder M/s. Kanhaiyalal Dudheria to M/s. MLPL Limited, Hospete, which will be now co-terminus with validity of lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1957 over an extent of 30.09 ha. for mining purpose.

In this regard, the DCF, Ballari Division has directed the user agency to withdraw the Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/50114/2020 [Form-A] through Parivesh portal vide letter dated 27-11-2023. Further to this, the user agency has requested to process the FC file for approach road of 2.40 ha for further approval vide letter dated 17-04-2024.

Details of the proposal are given below.

Patch	Length (mts)	Width (mts)	Area (ha)	Remarks
A to B	133.00	15.00	0.20	Fresh Forest-Clearance applied by User Agency for this instant proposal.
C to D	1450.00	15.00	2.20	
Total			2.40	
B to C	860.0	15.00	1.30	This patch of road passes through M/s Lakshmi Minerals mining lease [For which Forest Clearance obtained by M/s Lakshmi Minerals.]. In this regard, M/s MSPL should obtain written consent / NOC from M/s Lakshmi Minerals.
D to E	950.0	10.00	0.95 (Revised	This patch of road passes through forest. However, it is part of Other

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			from 0.73 to 0.95)	District Road (ODR). This road is in existence to prior to 1980 and it is being maintained by Panchayat Taj Engineering Department. Related documents are enclosed.
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As per the request of user agency, the DCF, Ballari Division opinioned that this proposal may be considered for approach road of 2.40 ha for further approval under Section-2 of Van (Samrkshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 subject to the condition that, the user agency should obtain the consent/NOC from M/s. Lakshmi Minerals. Further, the same has been forwarded to this office by the Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle vide Ref (6).

In view of the above, **as per the request of user agency and the recommendations of the DCF, Ballari Division and CF, Ballari Circle the proposal may be considered for approach road of 2.40 ha for further approval under the Section-2 of Van (Samrkshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 subject to the condition that, the user agency should obtain the consent/NOC from M/s. Lakshmi Minerals.**

Yours Faithfully,

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

Copy to:

1. The Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle for information.
2. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.
3. M/s MSPL Limited, Baldota Enclave, Abheraj Baldota Road, Hosapete, Ballar-583 203 for information.