

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮುಖ್ಯಅರಣ್ಯಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ  
(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರಕಛೇರಿ  
Office of  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)



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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/48/2019-FC  
Encl:

E-84336  
Date 21-08-2023

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To,

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

Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 0.8148 (*revised from 1.4406 hectare*) of forest land in Ubbalagundi Extension Reserved Forest, Ubbalagundi village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Approach Road to Ubbalagundi Iron Mine ML No.008 (located partly in adjoining Donimalai Block Forest and partly in Ubbalagundi Extension RF) in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited, Tornagallu

**Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/39765/2019 [FORM-A]**

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 03-09-2022 to Government of Karnataka [*Stage-I proposal*] and letter dated 26-12-2022 [*addressed to CCF, Ballari to direct DCF, Ballari to re-examine the proposal for the approach road*]
  2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 70 FLL 2022 (e) dated 13-10-2022 [*addressed to GOI, seeking Stage-I proposal*] and 16-12-2022 [*communication of GOI EDS query*]
  3. Government of India letter No. F.No.4-KRB1386/2022-BAN dated 09-12-2022 [*EDS Query*]
  4. M/s JSW Steel Limited letter No. JSW/Mines/UIOM Approach Road (rev.)/2022-23/1 dated 13-02-2023 [*reply to the EDS query raised by GoI : revised proposal from 1.4406 ha to 0.8148 ha*]
  5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division letter No. M1/MNG/JSW/ML No. 008(995)/Approach Road/2019-20 dated 05-07-2023 [*EDS reply*]
  6. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle letter No. M1/MNG: TRF/ML No. 995/JSW/CR-9/2018-19 dated 25-07-2023 [*EDS reply*]

With regard to above, the proposal was submitted by this office vide Ref (1) seeking Stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the Government of Karnataka and by the State Government vide Ref (2) letter dated 13-10-2022 to the Central Government. The Government of India vide Ref (3) has stated that *"the area proposed for diversion was inspected on 16.11.2022. During the site inspection it came to notice that there is already a road to the instant mine which is primarily passing through the non-forest land and was being used by earlier lessee. The existence of non-forest alternatives was not even mentioned in the proposal. The FC Act and Guidelines envisage that the existing non-forest land should be the priority for use, and forest land should be considered only in case of non-availability of forest land. Therefore, it is requested to re-examine the proposal for approach road in forest land and the user agency/ State authorities may be directed to use the existing road in the non-forest area, as the same road were used by the earlier lessee also.*

*It was learnt that similar proposals for approach road in forest area are in the pipeline, inspite of existence of roads through non-forest lands. Hence, the matter may be suitably decided by the State Government instead of leaving the issue of approach road decision to the user agency and proposal for use of forest land when suitable non-forest alternatives exist, against the tenets of forest conservation laws."*

In this regard, this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 26-12-2022 directed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle to communicate the above to the concerned jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests to re-examine the proposal for approach road in the forest land. Further, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle communicated the same to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division subsequently to the User Agency to re-submit the proposal for approach road as suggested by the Government of India.

In response the User Agency vide Ref (4) letter dated 13-02-2023 has agreed for using the existing approach road and has revised the proposal from originally proposed 1.4406 ha to 0.8148 ha. The same has been verified by the field officers and the reply to Government of India EDS query has been uploaded on FC web portal vide Ref (5) & (6) on FC web portal.

Based on the reply submitted by the User Agency through field officers as above, a revised proposal seeking diversion of 0.8148 ha (instead of originally proposed 1.4406 ha) forest land in Ubbalagundi Extension Reserved Forest, Ubbalagundi village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Approach Road to Ubbalagundi Iron Mine ML No.008 (located partly in adjoining Donimalai Block Forest and partly in Ubbalagundi Extension RF) in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited, Tornagallu is being revised as below for forwarding to the Government of India as reply to its EDS query dated 09-12-2022.

Segment-wise area calculation of this instant proposal.				
Segment	Length (meters)	Width (meters)	Area (Ha.)	Remarks
Segment-I	604.66	12.00	0.7256	
Segment-II	74.333	12.00	0.0892	Initially, the User Agency had applied for 0.7150 Ha. After suggestion by the IRO, the

				User Agency has excluded an area to an extent of 0.6258 ha from segment-II.
	678.993	12.00	0.8148	

**Location details and component-wise breakup of forest land:** The location and component-wise breakup of forest land required for the project are as under.

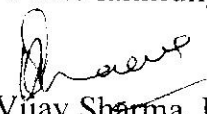
District, Taluk, Name of Forest	Village	Sy N o.	Project compon ent	Component		Forest extent propose d for diversio n (ha)	Status of forest land
Ballari District, Sandur Taluk, Ubbalagundi Extension RF	Ubbalagundi	-	Approach Road	1	Shoulder-1	0.03395	*Ubbalagundi Extension RF
				2	Drain	0.0679	
				3	Shoulder-2	0.0679	
				4	Two-Lane Carriageway	0.5432	
				5	Berm/Bund	0.10185	
Total						0.8148	

*\*Madars Government Notification No. 550 dated 12-12-1890*

In light of the facts stated above, it is requested to move the revised proposal with the Government of India for according 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for a period Co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957 (as Amended) subject to production of FRA certificate and also subject to the conditions specified in Annexure 'A'.

The revised information is also uploaded online to the extent permitted by FC web portal. Wherever it has not been possible for the User Agency and / or the field officers to edit the online information because of certain technical restrictions, the same is duly mentioned in the hard copy (3 sets) of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

  
(Vijay Sharma, IFS)

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

**Copy to the:**

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.
3. M/s JSW Steel Limited, P.O. Vijayanagar-583 275 Ballari District for information and with a request to obtain and submit the FRA Certificate in FORM-I (for Linear Projects) as mentioned above at the earliest