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Office of the
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga.
Date: 16-08-2025.

To,
The Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 9.5474 Ha of forest land in Hirekandavadi village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli Village Sy No. 35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk and Dindadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Conveyor Project for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favor of M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga. **(Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/ 2020) [FORM-A].**

- Ref: 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA), Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru online communication to this office Dated: 07-09-2021.
2. This office even letter dated:27-05-22, 05-06-2023, 06-12-2023 and 04-12-2024.
3. Letter No.A5(1).MNG.CR.6/2018-19 Dated:01-04-2025 of Principal Conservator of Forest (Forest Conservation) and Nodal officer (FCA), aranya Bhavan Bengaluru.
4. Letter dated:19-05-2025 of M/s Vedanta Ltd., (M/s Sesa Goa Iron Ore), Bheemasamudra, Chitradurga.

With reference to the above subject, M/s Vedanta Ltd., has submitted a proposal through web portal mode for diversion of 9.5474 Ha of forest land in Hirekandavadi village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli Village Sy No. 35, B-Durga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk and Dindadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Conveyor Project for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 for approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, a communication through online was received to process the said proposal and to submit specific opinion vide ref (1).

The report on this proposal has already been submitted from this office vide reference (2). The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation) and Nodal officer (FCA), Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru have instructed to submit a report to the following points vide reference (3).

In this regard, this office had directed the User Agency and requested to furnish the information/documents vide this office letter dated:01-04-2025. The same has been received vide letter under Ref. (4) as below. (Copy enclosed).

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Sl No	Particulars	Compliance
1	As per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rule 2023 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No:FC-11/118/2021-FC dated:25-01-2024, the instant proposal requires recommendation of Project Steering Committee. Therefore, it is requested to provide the same.	In this regard there is a need of directions from the Nodal officer (FCA), Bengaluru.
2	The user agency has not submitted C:B ratio. It is requested to furnish the C:B ratio considering the parameters given in the comprehensive guideline issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rule 2023.	The C:B ratio of the subject project is 1.15 for 10 MTPA.
3	The MoEF& CC, New Delhi vide its letter No:8-81/1992-FC (VOL) dated: 15-10-2019 had already accorded in-principal approval for diversion of 7.798 ha of forest land for establishment of Conveyor Belt system to the ML No. 2667. Therefore, the User Agency is requested to clarify whether any work has been carried out as per the said approval or otherwise, along with specific comments.	Since, No Objection Certificate (NOC) was not issued by the Director, Department of Mines and Geology sighting that, the propose alignmnint of Conveyor Belt is passing through the mineralized zone of the adjoining non-working mine M/s Janthakal Enterprises, which is proposed for auction post completion of mineral exploration. Further in the absence of the Stage-I, no Stage-II clearance is granted. Hence in the absence of Stage-II/Final clearnce, we could not initiate the execution of the project work. The copy of the letter No.DMG-17011/29/2017/2019-20 dated:20-01-2020 from Director Mines and Geology in this regard is enclosed.
4	The reason given for not going ahead with earlier proposal is stated to be that the DMG has refused to give its permission for Conveyor Belt passing through a closed mine. In this regard, it is requested to provide the alternatives explored and the reason for selecting an alignment through the forest land involving felling of more than 7000 trees, instead of a closed mine.	As per the revelation of topographical Survey by M/s KIOCL, the non-working mine M/s Janthakal Enterprises is a mineralised area. Therefore, The Director, Department of Mines and Geology had not issued No Objection Certificate (NOC). Therefore, the mineralized zone and by maintaining rest of the earlier alignment same as earlier. Revised alignment plan is enclosed.

Sl No	Particulars	Compliance
5	The State Government may clarify whether any request has been submitted to MoEF&CC, New Delhi for withdrawal of the proposal for which MoEF & CC, New Delhi has already granted in-principal approval on 15-10-2019. And if so, the status of the same may be furnished.	Post non-grant of NOC, the withdrawal letter for the said project was uploaded in the Parivesh portal on 27-10-2020. Withdrawal letter is enclosed.
6	The State Government is requested to provide the status of the proposal of change of name of the user agency, as per the condition stipulated in in-principal approval letter No:8-81/1992 FC (VOL) dated:15-10-2019	A recommendation letter No.FEE 27 FFM 2018 dated:05-06-2018 was sent from ACS office to MoEF & CC for the change of name from M/s Sesa Sterlite Limited to M/s Vedanta Limited. Copy of the above letter is enclosed.
7	As per the proposal, plantation will be taken up in the DFL identified i.e. 19.094 ha identified on Sy No.84 Molakalmuru taluk, Chitradurga District since the non-forest land identified is not suitable for carrying out plantation. However, as per the CA land suitability certificate issued by DCF & Director, BRT Tiger Reserve, the identified non forest land is having natural growth in major extent and therefore, planting is not necessary. In this regard, it may be noted that as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, if the non-forest land being made available for compensatory afforestation already bears vegetation of 0.4 canopy density or more, there shall not be an additional requirement of planting of trees on such land but a programme for improvement of the forest crop shall be implemented by the Forest Department in a time-bound manner. Further, in case the non-forest or portion thereof provided by the user agency is not fit for raising compensatory afforestation of a specified density, then additional compensatory afforestation shall be raised on a degraded notified or unclassified forest land under the management control of the Forest Department which is twice in size of such shortfall in the given compensatory afforestation land and the user agency shall also bear the additional cost on such account. Therefore, the State Government may revisit the CA Scheme as per the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.	Revised CA scheme is enclosed

The above information as sought is submitted for your kind perusal and needful action.

Yours Faithfully,
Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga.

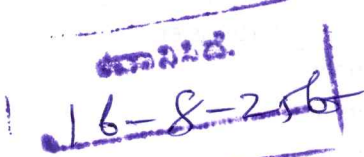
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1. **Copy Submitted to the** Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Conservation and Nodal Officer FCA, Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru for kind perusal.
2. **Copy** to M/s Vedantha Ltd., [ML No.2677], Megalahalli Office Complex, Bheemasamudra [P], Chitradurga [T &D] for information.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga.

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16-8-2016