

GOVERNMENT OF GOA Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests

South Goa Division Margao – Goa, Pin 403601.

Ph/Fax No.: 0832-2750246/2751462 E mail: dcfsouth-forest.goa@nic.in/dcfsouth@gmail.com No.6/FCA-85/ML-3/FeMn 79/DCFS/TECH/2024-25/2178 Dated:-25/02/2025 Magha, 1946 (Saka)

To,

The Conservator of Forest (Conservation), Goa Van Bhawan, Altinho, Panaji – Goa.

Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 72.08 Ha (72.20 ha. mining +1.88 ha Approach Road) of forest land for non-forestry purpose under mining lease bearing No. 3/FeMn/79 located at Village Caurem, Quepem Taluka in South Goa District & Division, in favour of M/s. Naraina Sinai Quritonim (Online proposal No.FP/GA/MIN/153183/2022)-reg.

Madam,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, Essential Details Sought (EDS) on 21/11/2024, it is to inform that, this Office has already submitted comments vide this Office letter No.6/FCA-85/ML-3/FeMn-79/DCFS/TECH/2023-24/1100 dated 03/10/2023 in respect to MoEF & CC, New Delhi letter No.08-26/2022/-FC dated May 2023, copy enclosed for information.

Regarding, Point No.VII – it is to mention that Spot Verification of Forest Rights Claims is in progress. Recently, Spot Verification of 37 claims under Survey No.19 of Caurem village have been completed and the Range Forest Officer, Quepem has submitted the report to the concerned Forest Right Committee.

Submitted please.

Yours faithfully,

(Santosh Kumar Reddy V, IFS)

Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division, Margao- Goa.

Encl: As above.



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To, The Conservator of Forest (Conservation), Goa Van Bhawan, Altinho, Panaji - Goa.

> Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 72.08 Ha (72.20 ha. mining +1.88 ha Approach Road) of forest land for non-forestry purpose under mining lease bearing No. 3/FeMn/79 located at Village Caurem, Quepem Taluka in South Goa District & Division, in favour of M/s. Naraina Sinai Quritonim (Online proposal No.FP/GA/MIN/153183/2022)-reg.

Ref: 1) MoEF & CC, New Delhi office letter No.08-26/2022-FC dated May 2023.

2) No.6-13(216)-2023-24-FD/VOL-I/2152 dated 28.07.2023 of DCF, M & E, Panaji.

Madam,

With reference to the above cited subject, please find herewith the comments of this office against respective query points.

Point number	Query / Observation in the letter of Ministry	
Point No.i	"The UA claims that its lease of 1979 Succeeded the concession No.6/1952 over the area. The Mining Lease deed with the current UA was executed on 13/12/1979 and registered on 3/.6/1981 and it is not clear whether any fresh forest area was broken after the enactment of FCA. It is also not discernible from the high resolution Google	Records in Range Office, Quepem and Division Office were checked for 1. Mining Lease 2. Diversion under FCA 1980 3. Fresh Forest area Broken 4. Google earth Data of the past After going through the above mentioned records, no conclusive evidence/proof was

Point No.ii	"From the low resolution Google imagery of 1985, it is observed that pits/worked area were seen in 1985 imagery." "From the available records, it is seen that the user agency has not taken forest clearance for the approach road to the mine."	obtained to ascertain any fresh forest area was broken after the enactment of FCA 1980. The absence of tree felling data/offence data in said area also supports this point. Hence it could be stated that no forest area was broken after the enactment of FCA 1980. As per the Government survey documents submitted by the User Agency, it was observed that the approach road to the mine had existed even before 1980. The same documents were verified and found to be in order. The Range Forest Officer, Quepem has obtained Survey and land documents pertaining to approach road to the mine. Same are enclosed herewith. It is concluded from the date of Survey Plan and records that the approach road to the mine had existed even before 1980.
Point No.iv	"The IBM Mining plan states that, the mining lease continued to work till August,2005 under the provision of Rule 24(A)(6) OF MCR,1960. However, no work could be continued thereafter or want of statuary clearances During the period 1999-2005, there is no record any FC clearance as is mandated under FC Guidelines 1.6(i) and hence constitutes a violation."	
Point No.vii	"As can be seen from item 20(2)of the SIR, there are serious Forest Rights Act	the State of Goa through the

issues over the forest land proposed for diversion and two complaints are also received in this regard. Large part of the forest land proposed diversion is observed to be under cashew plantation and issues of claims of local people over collection of produce."

Forest Right Committee (FRC) of Divisional Sub Village, Committee (SDLC), District Level Committee (DLC) and State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC). After the claims are received and passed in Gram Sabha, spot verification is Scheduled by the FRC. The role of Forest department only starts at the Spot verification level. No details of FRA claims or applications are received by the forest department before spot verification. Hence the department had no official record to indicate FRA claims at the time of SIR of this office.

It is to mention that spot verification notice was issued to the office of recently Quepem RFO, 02/05/2023. However, it could not be completed due to the lack of participation from claimants' side with proper records.

In response to letter No.6-13(216)-2023-24-FD/VOL-I/2152 dated 28.07.2023 of Dy. Conservator of Forests, Monitoring and Evaluation, Panaji, the above reply is submitted through circle head.

Submitted for favour of information and necessary action, please.

Yours faithfully,

3/10/123 Prem Kumar R., IFS Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division,

Margao- Goa.

Encl: 1) Plan dated 10.12.1979 depicting old mine pits existing before 1980.

2) Plan of P.T. Sheets with respect to Survey No. 19/0 surveyed between 27/11/1973 to 24/12/1973 of Cavorem village, Quepem Taluka.

Copy to: The Dy. Conservator of Forest, Monitoring & Evaluation, Panaji for information w.r.t. letter cited at reference (2) above.