

To,

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Aranya Bhavan,
Bangalore.

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) Your letter No.A5(1)/MNG/CR-41/2016-17 dated:22-12-2017.

2) This office letter of even No.dated:01-01-2018 addressed to the
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari and copy
submitted to your goodself.3) Letter No.M1/MNG/JSW/Pipe/2017-18 dated:11-01-2018 of the Deputy
Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari.

* * * * *

In light of the directions issued by your goodself in the letter (1) cited above, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari, has been instructed to submit the specific remarks on the following 3 point observations as raised therein, vide this office letter (2) cited above for onward submission of the same to your goodself.

Accordingly, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari, in his self contained report cited under reference supra, has opined his specific remarks on the following points duly getting the proposed project site inspected by the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-division, Ballari and after re-examining the observations made by your goodself.

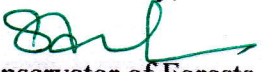
On going through the report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari, the following facts are forthcoming and the same are brought to your kind notice for taking further needful action in the matter.

Sl. No.	Observations	Specific remarks
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. It is reported that the Survey bearing No.224 of Bannihatti village of Sandur Taluk, has been located inside the Eco-Sensitive Zone (Section 4 proposed area), which is default Eco-Sensitive Zone of Daroji Wildlife Sanctuary is about 10 Kms. However, as per the draft Gazette notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, dated:22-09-2015, the revised eco-sensitive zone for Daroji Bear Sanctuary is varying from 150 Mtrs to 4.7 Kms around the boundary of the sanctuary. The final notification of the Eco-Sensitive Zone is yet to be finalized and published by the Ministry.

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.	It is reported that the following Flora and Fauna are rarely found here and there in the vicinity where pipe conveyor belt project is to be established. Flora: Acacia catechu, Albizzia amara, Anogeissus latifolia, Cassia fistula, Carissa carandus and Dodonia viscosa. Fauna: Hares, Peafowl, Sloth Bear, Wild boar, Leopard, Grey partridge and Indian porcupine.
3	A clear opinion as to whether the project (pipe conveyor belt) is likely to have any adverse impact on the free movement of wild animals in the area, especially during night.	It is reported that the proposed pipe conveyor belt which is to be erected will be on columnar structures and it traverses through periphery of the forest boundary all along the railway line and PWD road also. As such, the adverse impact on the free movement of the wild animals in the proposed vicinity is bare minimum. Further, it is suggested to fix the limitation of the time to operate the conveyor belt, in order to facilitate and to ensure the adverse impact on the free movements of wild animals, especially during the night times.

In light of the facts as categorically justified on the above observations as raised by your goodself, the proposed forest land for pipe conveyor belt corridor is quite in-conformity with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its W.P.No.562/2009 and similar guidelines issued by the Central Empowered Committee, for smooth transportation of minerals through conveyor belts and railway sidings. Besides this, this proposed pipe conveyor belt system which is to be installed in the forest land, is a eco-friendly activity when compared to that of road transportation which often poses road accidents and also causes havoc to the wild habitats. Hence, this proposal may be considered favourably, in light of the provisions as enacted in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,


Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari.