



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय  
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**BY SPEED POST/E-mail**  
F. No. 4-KRC1507/2025-BAN 707  
Dated the Feb, 2025

To  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka  
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,  
M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,  
Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject – 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 Dinadadahalli village, Sy.No.18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk and District for establishment of approach road, loading area and conveyor pipeline for iron ore mine ML No.2677 in favour of M/s. Vedanta Ltd, Chitradurga.

Madam/Sir

I am directed to refer to State Government letter dated 03.02.2025 on the subject above and to inform that the proposal submitted by the State Government has been examined in this office. In this regard, it is requested to provide the following information/clarification for further processing the proposal:

- 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 25/1/2024, the instant proposal requires recommendation of Project Steering Committee. Therefore, it is requested to provide the same.
- 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 MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide its letter No. 8-81/1992FC (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 State Government is requested to clarify whether any work has been carried out as per the said approval or otherwise, along with specific comments of State Government for submission of new proposal.
- The reason given for not going ahead with earlier proposal is stated to be

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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.

- v. 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-principle approval on 15/10/2019. and If so, the status of the same may be furnished.
- vi. 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-principle approval letter No. 8-81/1992FC (VOL) dated 15/10/2019.
- vii. 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 land 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 unclassed 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.

Yours faithfully,

**Signed by Mahesh Kumar  
Shambhu**

**Date: 19-02-2025**

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (FC Division), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003- For information.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.
3. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (VSESA) /Nodal Officer (VSESA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.



4. The User Agency
5. Guard file. 10/12