

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 10th March, 2021

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 401.5761 hectare (*revised from 484.0733 ha.*) (388.00 ha for mining + 13.5761 ha. for approach road=401.5761 ha.) of forest land in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Mining in Devadari Hill Range in favour of IWs KIOCL Ltd. (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited), Bengaluru.-regarding (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/32568/2018). -reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 19FFM 2020 (e) dated 09th October, 2020 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard it is informed that the above mentioned proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on 17.02.2021. After the thorough deliberation and discussion with Nodal officer (FCA), State Government, Regional officer IRO Bangalore and representatives of the user agency it was decided that a Subcommittee of the FAC shall visit the area and ascertain the factual position on the ground. The sub-committee shall discuss the proposal with officials of the State Government at various levels and also with representatives of M/s KIOCL. The Office order wrt the constitution of committee and its ToR will be communicated separately.

2. Further it was also decided based on the SIR report that major patches of forest land adjoining to cultivation areas have not been included in the proposed CA areas. DCF, Bellary may revisit the proposed CA sites and suggest larger patches of

forest area for CA so that it could be treated for better management in future, subject to in-principle approval if accorded by the Ministry.

3. The State Government may also explore identifying degraded forest land outside notified forests (such as forests recorded in revenue records) for the purpose of CA for the instant proposal. If such lands are not available in the state, state Government may clearly inform this.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to comply with the para 2 above and to extend the necessary assistance to the sub-committee to undertake the field visit.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore,
2. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore,
3. The Regional Officer , Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore,
4. User Agency,
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.