



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
 CLIMATE CHANGE**
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, REGIONAL OFFICE
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BY SPEED POST

F.No. 4-KRC1497/2024-BAN/

Dated the 03rd December, 2024

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 18.6 ha. of forest land in Sy.No.36, Bommavara village and Sy.No.124 of Akkupete village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District for construction of the Rail Depot under Bengaluru-Sub-Urban Rail Project (BSRP) in favour of the Manager, (KRIDE) Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd, Samparka Soudha, 1st Floor, Opp. Orion Mall, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru -560 010. **(Online Proposal No. FP/KA/RAIL/142190/2021)**

Sir/Madam

I am directed to refer to State Government's letter No. FEE/252/FLL 2024 (E) dated 04.11.2024 seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adihiniyam 1980 wrt above subject seeking final approval. After analysing the proposal, the following are observed: -

- i. As per the subrule 16 of rule 9 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023, the proposal which involves forest land of more than five hectares, shall be forwarded by the Nodal Officer, with the approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, to the State Government or Union territory Administration, along with the Project Screening Committee's recommendation and the same shall also be forwarded to the Regional Office. The recommendation of PSC is not submitted along with the proposal.
- ii. The DCF Bengaluru Rural Division has not recommended the proposal citing that the felling of 17,615 number of trees would affect the flora, fauna and the microclimate of the area. In this regard the State Government shall offer its comments regarding the adverse effect on the ecosystem of the area, due to felling of so many trees.
- iii. Further, the Hon'ble NGT has suo moto registered an Original Application

No.792 of 2024(PB) (renumbered as Original Application No.236 of 2024(SZ), based on the news item published in 'Bengaluru - Hindustan Times' dated 11.06.2024 titled "Over 2000 citizens oppose felling of 33,000 trees for Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the updated status of the case and also clarify if the number of trees to be felled is 17,615 or 33,000.

- iv. The CCF has recommended the proposal stating that all the trees proposed to be felled are Eucalyptus. However, tree enumeration details submitted show that there are another 14 different type of tree species listed. In this regard the State Government shall offer its comments.
- v. The construction of rail depot in the forest land is not a site-specific activity. In this regard the State Government is requested to provide the justification for establishing the rail depot in forest land instead of non-forest land.
- vi. The C:B ration is not submitted.
- vii. The KML files of the alternatives examined is not uploaded in PARIVESH portal.
- viii. The KML file and non-encumbrance certificate of the non-forest land (18.61 ha of NFL in Sy. No. 65 of Susulu village, Susulu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District) identified for CA is not submitted.
- ix. The site suitability certificate of 32.20 ha of DFL identified for plantation in Adagal State Forest, Sy. No. 70 of Diguvarampalli Village and Sy. No. 73 of Thimmalapalli Village, Nelavanki Hobli, Srinivaspura taluk, Kolar State Forest is not submitted.
- x. In the land-use/component wise break up it is mentioned that an area of 5 ha will be used for construction of Buildings. The State Government is requested to clarify what type/ nature of buildings have been proposed.
- xi. The State Government may explore other non-forest land for execution of the project.

In view of above the State Government is requested to submit the above-mentioned documents/information/clarification to this office.

Yours faithfully,

(Praneetha Paul)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ Division), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
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-The Manager, Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka)Ltd., Samparka Soudha, 1st Floor, Opp. Orion Mall, Dr. Rajkumar, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560010.
5. Guard file.