

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
Office of
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ
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Old File No. A5(1).MNG.CR.6/2018-19

E-63998

E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/28/2018-FC

Date -03-2025

To,

The Deputy Conservator of Forests
Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga

Sub: Diversion of 9.5474 hectare of forest land in Hirekandavadi Village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli village Sy No. 35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalakere Taluk and Dinadadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Approach Road, Loading Area and Conveyor Pipeline for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga

Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/2020 [FORM-A]

- Ref:**
1. This office even letter dated 04-11-2024 [*proposal seeking Stage-I approval*]
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 20 FLL 2023(e) letter dated 03-02-2025 [*proposal seeking Stage-I approval*] and letter dated 15-03-2025 [*EDS query*]
 3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office letter 4-KRC 1507/2025-BAN/707 dated 19-02-2025 [*addressed to GoK, seeking essential information*]

In response to the proposal submitted by this office vide Ref (1) to the Government of Karnataka and by the State Government vide Ref (2) letter dated 20-06-2024 to the Government of India, MoEF & CC, RO, Bengaluru. The Government of India, MoEF & CC, RO, Bengaluru vide Ref (3) letter dated 19-02-2025 addressed to the Government of Karnataka has raised the online EDS seeking the following documents / information / clarification.

- i. 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.

- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The reason given for not going ahead with earlier proposal is stated to be 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.

Further, the Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 15-03-2025 has directed this office to submit the information sought by the Government of India.

Hence, you are directed to provide the details / information / documents / clarification to this office for further needful.

Digitally signed by

BRIJESH KUMAR

Date: 29-03-2025

19:35:33

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) & Nodal Officer (FCA)

Copy to the:

1. Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information.
2. M/s Vedanta Limited, Sesa Goa Iron Ore, Megalahalli Office Complex, Megalahalli village, Bheemasamudra, Chitradurga – 577 520 for information.