

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 13th May, 2022

To
The Secretary (In-charge)
Government of Uttarakhand
Dehradun

Sub: Renewal of diversion of forest land of 384.69 ha of forest land in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Tanakpur for collection of Minor Minerals from Shrda River in Haldwani Forest Divisions, District Champawat (Uttarakhand) (Online proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/154581/2022) – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your online proposal No. FP/UK/MIN/154581/2022 26.04.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to inform that examination of the said proposal in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. Detail of compensatory afforestation, in lieu of approval accorded for 384.69 ha of forest land, undertaken in the past, its survival percentage, year wise detail of expenditure proposed and incurred needs to be submitted by the State along with soft copies of KML/shape files of all sites to enable in-depth analysis of the proposal using DSS tools.
- ii. **Analysis of the proposal using Decision Support System revealed the following:**
 - a. As per DSS analysis, out of total area of 397 ha (software estimated), 52 ha falls under MDF, 15 ha open forest, 139 ha under water and remaining 191 ha as non-wooded forest land. Therefore, in light of observation made in DSS report, submission made by the State need justification to support their claim of area having vegetation density of

0.01 with no project affected trees. Discrepancy in the area may also be commented upon by the State. State also needs to justify the inclusion of 139 ha reportedly under water for proposed mining.

- b. Tanakpur dam, NHPC Ltd. power station and a road is visible inside the area proposed for mining. Some non-forestry works is visible near the dam site which can be verified through the Google Imagery available from year 2019 onwards. State Government may comments on the same via-a-vis violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- c. KML file of the safety zone has not been submitted/uploaded online.
- d. As the area is located at a distance of approximately 3 km (1.60 km aerial distance) from the boundary of Dudwa-Lagga_Bagga-Philibhit Tiger Corridor, comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden on the proposed proposal may be obtained by the State and the same may be submitted for the Ministry for consideration.

iii. Examination of the Mining scheme revealed the following:

- a. Mining Plan/Scheme mention that time extension of lease has been granted for a period of another 10 years vide Government letter dated 26.06.2020. It needs to be clarified by the State whether the extension is considered over 55.03 ha or entire area of 384.69 ha approved under the FC Act, 1980.
- b. Comments of State on validity of Mining Plan/Scheme after 12.02.2023 i.e. whether any revised Mining Plan and renewal of lease is under consideration or granted by the State for further period after the expiry of the lease. In case the certain forest areas are not to be considered mining, such areas should be surrendered back to Forest Department.
- c. Lease has been considered for extension for a period of 10 years while the Scheme of Mining has been submitted only up-to 27.12.2020. The discrepancy needs to be rectified by the State.
- d. Land use/Component wise breakup of the area proposed for diversion i.e. area under mining, infrastructure, approach road, storage of top soils, etc. has not been mentioned neither in the proposal nor in the Mining Scheme. The same needs to be furnished by the State.
- e. Mining Plan essentially has to be prepared in consonance with the provisions of the relevant mineral concession rules and accordingly diversion proposal should be formulated by the State. Mining Plan, if any, prepared and approved for the entire period of 10 years may be

submitted by the State providing the full detail of the land use, mining area, its reclamation, etc.

- iv. Status of District Survey Report, if any, prepared by the State Government in Champawat District in accordance with the Guidelines on Sustainable Sand Mining - 2019 issued by the Ministry vis-à-vis recommendation made thereof on the mining of RBM proposed in the extant proposal.
- v. The State Government may also submit its comments whether the report prepared by the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation is in conformity with the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2019 or otherwise.
- vi. Details of estimation of cost benefit ratio has not been provided/uploaded online. The same needs to be estimated by accounting all parameters specified in the Guidelines dated 1.08.2017 issued by the Ministry, incorporated at Annexure –III of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- vii. As per Supreme Court order dated 28.03.2008, revenue earned from the sale of RBM should be utilized for conservation work. Detail of amount earmarked and incurred on conservation may be provided on annual basis for the last decade.
- viii. Details of money deposited in SPV made in the previous approval and SMC works done so far may also be provided.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist- D

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun
2. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of the FC Division for uploading on the PARIVESH portal.