

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

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



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ,
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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/21/2018-FC

E-63659

Date 0 -05-2025

EDS QUERY
URGENT

To,

The Deputy Conservator of Forests
Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga

Sub: Ex post facto approval for diversion of 3.331 Ha (*revised from 4.3013 Ha*) of forest land in Sy No. 20 Megalahalli Village, Sy No. 9 Marijogihalli Village and Sy No. 6 Bedarabommanahalli Village in Nirthadi State (Reserved) Forest, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk and District for approach road to ML No. 2677 through Gate-3 in favour of M/s Vedanta limited, Chitradurga District

Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/144881/2021 [Form-A]

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number letter dated 03-01-2025 [*submission of Stage-I proposal to GoK*] and letter dated 12-02-2025 [*EDS reply to GoK*]
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 07 FLL 2025 (e) letter dated 07-02-2025 [*EDS query*], letter dated 24-03-2025 [*Stage-I proposal*] and letter dated 15-05-2025 [*communication of EDS query raised by GoI on 02-05-2025*]
 3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi letter No. 8-81/1992-FCVol.I/108815/2025 dated 02-05-2025 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) to the Government

of India. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi vide Ref (3) letter dated 02-05-2025 has requested to furnish following documents / clarification / information for further consideration of the said proposal.

- i. The CA area over NFL has been mentioned 6.069 ha as per the forwarding letter of the PCCF dated 03.02.2025 however, in the part-II the DFO has mentioned NFL area for CA as 4.538 ha. The State Government may provide a clarification.
- ii. The area of the CA land is less than 5.0 ha and it is far from the nearest boundary of the Reserve Forest, therefore, as per the Para 2.3 (iv) of the consolidated guideline dated 29.12.2023 the CA scheme with 20 years maintenance may be submitted.
- iii. Observation based on Google Earth image: cultivation land is visible. Therefore, the State Govt. shall submit its comments on the same and ensure the suitability of the proposed CA land.
- iv. The Ministry vide F.No.8-81/1992-FC(Pt), dated 30-12-2014 has accorded the final approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of mining lease over 164.79 ha of forest land (161.54 ha for mining lease + 3.25 ha for approach road) in Nirthadi Reserved Forest in 8-81/1992-FC Vol. I/108815/2025 favour of M/s Sesa Sterlite Limited (formerly M/s Sesa Goa Limited). The State Govt. shall submit the compliance report of conditions stipulated in this approval.
- v. The Ministry vide letter No. 8-81/1992-FC-FC (pt) dated 17-01-2019 has accorded 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for ex-post facto approval of 2.025 ha of forest land for approach. The SG vide letter No. FEE 73 FFM 2014 dated 04.11.2024 has submitted the compliance report and the Ministry after the examination of the said compliance report has asked the SG to submit the additional information/documents vide letter dated 05.12.2024 (copy enclosed). The reply of the same still awaited. The reply to the same letter shall be submitted.

- vi. As reported by the State Govt. an FOC No.18/2022-23, dated 01-10-2022 against the authorities of M/s Vedanta Limited for using the forest portion of Gate-3 approach road has been registered and has submitted the charge sheet to the Jurisdictional JMFC Court. This case is pending in JMFC Court. The transportation of M/s Vedanta ore has since been stopped, after registering FC No.18/2022-23 dated 01.10.2022. In this regard, the State Govt. shall provide the latest updated status of the case.
- vii. The state shall submit the present status of the mining operations in the area.

You are directed to provide the details / information / documents / clarification and submit the same to this office at earliest through Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle for further communication of the same to the Government of India through the Government of Karnataka for further consideration of the proposal for in-principle stage-I approval.

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

Copy to the:

1. Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information and for further necessary action.
2. M/s Vedanta Limited Iron Ore Karnataka, Vedanta Sesa Goa Iron ore, Megalahalli Office Complex, Megalahalli Village, Bheemasamudra Post, Chitradurga District – 577 520 for information and necessary action.