

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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110003  
**Dated: 12th August, 2021**

To  
**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),**  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department,  
Government of Karnataka,  
Bangalore.

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 12.4724 hectare of forest land [6.6978 hectare in Ramanamalai (RM) Block Forest and 5.7746 hectare in Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest] near Dharmapura village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing Closed Pipe Conveyor System from Ramanadurga Iron Ore Mine (RIOM ML No. 2141) in favour of M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Private Limited, Ballari (Online proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/1247/2004.).**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 07 FFM 2020 (e) dated 15.07.2020 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the matter was discussed in the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 27.07.2021. The detailed minutes of the said FAC meeting is placed on the [parivesh.nic.in](http://parivesh.nic.in). After thorough deliberation, the FAC **deferred the proposal** and desired following information to be furnished:

- i. On perusal of the KML files of the area on DSS it is observed that already two approach roads are there to the existing mines. It is learnt the State government has not submitted the report on the alternatives explored. State Government shall explore possibility of using the existing road for maintenance of the Conveyor belt instead of proposing new road.
- ii. From the DSS analysis it is learnt that the existing railway line is distant from the proposed terminal point of the conveyor belt, and a part of the forest area is proposed to be diverted for railway siding at the proposed terminal point. State government may submit the justification of proposing the terminal point, well ahead of the existing railway line along with review if forest area proposed for the railway siding could be avoided/ minimized.
- iii. Serious note was taken that the State government has not yet notified the CA land provided *in-lieu* of diversion of the forest land approved earlier for mining (60.56 ha) as RF/PF despite considerable number of years have passed-by. It was noted that as per extant Guidelines, the CA land has to be notified as RF/PF before Stage-II is granted. The copy of the notification shall be submitted.

iv. The area being hilly with steep slopes, a detailed soil and moisture conservation plan for the area shall be required.

In view of above, it is requested that the State Government may kindly submit the information/documents as stated above to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

*Sd-*

**(Sandeep Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer ( FCA), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF& CC, New Delhi.