



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road
Vijayawada – 520010, Andhra Pradesh
email: iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in



F.No. 4-APC193/2022-VIJ/803

Date 30th March, 2023

To

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 9.39 ha. of forest land in Compartment No.475 of Veligonda RF of Mundlapadu Beat, Kanigiri Range, Giddalur Division for extraction of Quartz in favor of Sree Balaji Minerals, Mg. Partner: Sri Syed Mastan Basha-reg.

Reference: The State Government letter No 2004/Section.II/2022/(1847799) Dated: 04.11.2022

Sir,

Please refer to the subject and reference and to inform that, the subject proposal was considered in the 9th REC, IRO, Vijayawada meeting held on 23.11.2022 and after detailed deliberation the committee recommended the proposal to forward the proposal to the Ministry. As recommended by the REC and receipt of the modified Mining Plan, the IRO Vijayawada recommended the proposal to the Ministry and requested to obtain and communicate approval of the competent authority;

With the approval of the DGF&SS, the file has been returned to the IRO Vijayawada with a direction to seek clarification from the State Government on the following;

- (i) *The proposal says that there is no cluster of mines. It is stated that proposed area applied for diversion of the land by the forest department for conducting mining operations only after requirements possibilities of the Forest Department and the applied area not a part of the cluster of mines. However the communications of the State Forest Department says that there had been 67 mining leases and only 10 are working. Further the status of remaining non-functional or lesser functional mines and their compliance status is unknown and there is no mention of this fact in the proposal.*

- (ii) *As per the report of the Assistant Director Mines and Geology Markapur there are 4 overlapping mines, which has not been agreed by the Mining department in their communication, but it is without substantiating with facts and survey-demarcation report and other supporting documents. Moreover, both AP Forest Department and REC have not touched upon this point. It is also not known what is the status of other 3 adjoining mining leases as mentioned in the mining document.*
- (iii) *The proposed Minor Mineral which is regulated by the Andhra Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1966 and the provisions laid down under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 are applicable. As per Letter No:47376/R3-1/2010 of Director of Mines and Geology the grant of mining lease in the matter for quarrying of Quartz is for 9.110 hectare in compartment no: 475 of Mundlapadu Beat of Veligonda Reserve Forest, CS Puram Section, Kaninigiri Range of Giddalur Forest Division of Prakasam District given to M/s Balaji Minerals, Represented by Mg Partner Shri Syed Mastan Basha. However, the proposal submitted related to extant lease is for 9.39 ha which is more than the lease area. It appears that the additional forest area asked for is for approach road, which is not justifiable in case there are adjoining mining lease and the lease falls in a cluster of mines.*
- (iv) *As per the mining permission it is mentioned that as per the Rule 22(D)(c) of MC Rules, 1960 the minimum size of the mining lease is Four (4) Hectares and hence the recommended extents of 14.228 Hectares, 9.110 Hectares, 10.20 Hectares and 8.11 Hectares to the said four (4) applicants respectively are not huge areas and can be considered for grant of Mining Leases in the subject area. In view of the above how much area should be allowed to be diverted cannot be evaluated unless the status of the other mines and their land requirement is also taken in to consideration.*
- (v) *As per mining plan the area shown under overburden dump is not in coherence with the mineral expected to be quarried out. The mining plan states that ten percent of waste will be generated to the quantity of about 52 thousand tonnes which will be dump over an area of about 0.5 ha (which got modified later on about 2.5 hectares) and about 40 thousand tonnes will be used for internal roads. The waste will be utilized to strengthen the internal road of quarry lease area. The above proposition without any merit and cannot be relied upon merely base on such superfluous planning.*
- (vi) *As per the modified Mining plan the over burden dump area is of almost 50 percent of mining area, which cannot be considered as site specific activity.*
- (vii) *The CA area is more than 10 hectares, however, as per the Ministry's recent guidelines, scrutiny of the area is warranted in the case. Moreover, the CA plan is also for 12 years, which is not clear as why the CA is for 12 years?*
- (viii) *The number of trees getting affected is on high side and without justification.*

In view of the above observations noted by the Ministry, it is requested to examine the above matter thoroughly and submit point wise reply on the same along with the supporting documents to this office at the earliest for further processing of the proposal

Yours faithfully,



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department & HoFF, AP Forest Department, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503
3. Sri BALAJI MINERALS PDTRAP, D.no.3/907-1,YMR Colony, Proddatur ,Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh- 516360 sreebalaji325@gmail.com



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)