

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 110003
Dated:22-08-2025

To,

The Special Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Assam,
Dispur.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Fatik Das for non-forestry use of 5.4 ha Reserved Forest for operation of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone Area under North Kamrup Division in Kamrup District in the State of Assam (Online proposal No. FP/AS/QRY/37021/2018)- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Assam proposal No. FP/AS/QRY/37021/2018 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this regard, it is informed that examination of the proposal in the Ministry revealed following: -

- i. The State Government needs to address the concerns raised by the Ministry on 15.03.2019 (copy enclosed) wherein the extant proposal for diversion of 5.38 was returned to the Regional Office by the Ministry.
- ii. The State Government may inform the status preparation of a comprehensive environment management plan for sustainable mining within the forest area and pending which no further forest clearance for mining leases should be accepted/ granted by the Regional Office/Ministry.
- iii. As per the Lol dated 29.09.2018, the approved quantity from the lease area is 2 lakh cum while the Mining Plan is approved for extraction of 2.5 lakh cum. Discrepancy needs to be rectified by the State Government.
- iv. Further, the State Government also needs to confirm, if the Lol dated 29.09.2018 granted by the Nodal Officer, is still valid in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Mineral Concession Rules.
- v. Part-II mentioned the total project affected trees as 9 while the Regional Office in its inspection report has reported the total project affected trees as 68. The State Government therefore needs to revisit the number of project affected trees.
- vi. Area earmarked for safety zone may be intimated by the State and accordingly included in the purpose wise break up of the forest area required

for the proposal.

- vii. As per details furnished in the proposal, the CA has been proposed over an area of 5.4 ha non-forest land, while as per DSS, the area of CA is 5.914 ha. The correctness of the area of the KML files may be revisited by the State for its rectification, if any required.
- viii. As per Decision Rule 1 of DSS, the area falls under High Conservation Value Zone as the proposed road falls within 250 m buffer of Mudunkari N water Stream. Comments from State Government in this regard needs to be submitted.
- ix. As per DSS, mining activities are visible in the proposed CA site. Therefore, the suitability of CA land may be revisited by the State and in case the CA land is not suitable, the alternate CA site may be identified by the State and the same may be informed to the Ministry.
- x. The State Government may provide its comments on the recommendation made by the DDG, Regional Office in the site inspection report of the Regional Office.

In view of the above, the Government of Assam is requested to kindly furnish the above information to the Ministry for further processing of the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Assam, Guwahati.
2. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
3. The CCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Assam, Guwahati.
4. The DIGF (C), Sub-office, Guwahati of MoEF&CC.
5. The Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.
6. User Agency.



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, शिलांग/Regional Office, Shillong
उपकार्यालय, गुवाहाटी/Sub - office, Guwahati

चौथीमंजिल, हौसेफेडइमारत, जीएसरोड, रुक्मिणीगाँव, गुवाहाटी-७८१०२२
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F. No. 3 AS/173/2023/GHY/866

18th February, 2025

To,

Shri Ramesh Pandey, IFS,
Inspector General of Forest (FC Division)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division),
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Site Inspection Report for diversion of proposal for 5.40 ha of forest land for operation of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone Area under North Kamrup Division in favour of Sri Fatik Das Guwahati.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, please find enclosed herewith a site inspection report undertaken by Regional Office, Shillong for above mentioned project.

Recommendations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central):

As mentioned in the report, the proposal is recommended and may be considered further as per the extant Rules and Guidelines under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Snarakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

This is for your kind information and needful from your end.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Ms. Intienlo Ao)

Deputy Director General of Forests(C)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Proposal for diversion of 5.40 ha of forest land for operation of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone Area under North Kamrup Division in favour of Sri Fatik Das, Guwahati.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSAL

State Government of Assam vide their letter No. ECF No.288519/53 dated 30.05.2023 submitted the proposal for diversion of 5.40 ha of forest land for operation of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone Area under North Kamrup Division in favour of Sri Fatik Das, Guwahati to Sub Office, Guwahati, seeking forest clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

As per the provision of the as per the provision of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 & Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, guideline & clarification, the site inspection of this instant proposal was conducted by Deputy Director General of Forest(C), Scientist 'E' and Research Officer of this Regional Office, Shillong on 03.05.2024 along with the following officials of the State Forest Department and representatives of User Agency: -

1. Dr. C Muthukumaravel, Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer (FC Act), Govt of Assam.
2. Shri Sunnydeo Indradeo Choudhury, DFO North Kamrup.
3. Shri Fatik Das, User agency.

The State Govt earlier submitted the "*Proposal for diversion of 5.38 hectare of forest land for operation of Gopeshwar Stone Quarry under North Kamrup Division in favour of Sri Fatik Das, Guwahati (F.No.3 AS C 011/2019-SH1/3875 dated 26.02.2019)*". Thereafter, State Govt submitted this revised proposal for diversion of 5.40 ha as per Ministry letter F.No. 8-6/2017-ROHQ dated 26.02.2019 which was the recast of the earlier proposal (5.38ha) for opening of Gopeswar Stone Quarry.

The location of the quarry site is close to National Highway 31, which is about 2.0 km away from the quarry site connecting by motorable road. The proposed quarry site is free from human habitation within a radius of about 0.4 km.

1) The Legal Status of the forests land proposed for diversion

District	Forest Division	Area involved and its break up (ha)	Legal Status	Road length & RoW of approach road	Aerial distance of the proposed area from the nearest PA/WLS/NP
Kamrup	North Kamrup	(i) mahal area - 4 ha , (ii) Safety zone - 1.38 ha & (iii) Approach road - 0.02 ha Total -5.40 ha	Gopeshwar Reserved Forest	41.556 meters & 6 m Row	15 Km from Deepor Beel WLS

- 2) **Whether proposal involved any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes details thereof:** No.

Not involved.

- 3) **Total cost of the Project at present rates.**

The total cost of the project is Rs. 3000 Lakhs.

- 4) **Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not.**

The proposed area and surrounding is disturb area and no important wildlife species is reported.

- 5) **Vegetation**

Sl. No.	Name of Forest Division	Name of RF /area involved	Total Nos. of trees to be felled including poles
1	North Kamrup.	Gopeshwar RF	68 Nos. of trees.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area

There will be minimal impact on the over ground as numbers of trees to be affected is 68 in numbers. However can be reduced by stringently complying towards the prescribed rules and guidelines.

- 6) **Background note on the proposal**

As given in the first paragraph.

- 7) **Compensatory Afforestation:**

The following equivalent forest land have been identified by the State Govt for taking up compensatory afforestation over the area proposed to be diverted:

District	Name of forest Division	Range/ Location	Area in Ha	Financial outlay(Rs)
Kamrup	North Kamrup	Dakhun Mandakata Village	5.40	Rs. 64,61,555.00/-

The non-encumbrance certificate for the identified CA site submitted by the State Govt. The land handing over taking over certificate issued by the Office of the circle Officer, North Guwahati Revenue Circle submitted. The notification of identified CA site to RF/PRF is under process.



Photographs of the identified CA site in Dakhun Mandakata Village in North Kamrup

Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not.

The proposed CA site is on hill side with undulating terrain in non forest land. The identified CA site is in open forest *with* few scattered tree species like *Tectona grandis*, *Sterculia spp.*, bamboo *etc* with thick ground covered with weedy species like *Eupatorium spp.*, *Parthenium spp.* *etc*. The identified CA site can be approached through the existing village road.

The identified CA site 5.40 ha is suitable for compensatory afforestation, however following are suggested:-

- (i) Out of total identified non forest land of 5.40 ha CA site, about 0.32 ha is mined area and such back filling of this area is suggested for better plantation approach.
- (ii) The identified CA site is to be demarcated and proper fencing of the boundary of the CA site to prevent from encroachment, etc.

Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other incumbencies.

Yes, free from encroachment/encumbrances.

Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from religious and archaeological point of view.

No.

Land identified for compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not

One patch

Maps with the details.

Submitted in SoI toposheet as well as soft copies of shape file along with proposal.

Total financial outlay:

Rs. 64,61,555.00/-

- 8) **Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes a report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:**

Not involved.

- 9) **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Govt or not.**

No displaced person involved in this proposal.

- 10) **Restoration & Reclamation Plan**

The restoration plan of the proposed mining area will be implemented as per the approved mining plan and as per the condition of 'Final Approval' as per the State Govt. The reclamation of the proposed area with plantation of trees is to undertake as per the "progressive Mine closure plan" and "Final Mine closure plan" as per the approved mining plan.

- 11) **Cost Benefit ratio.**

- Not required.

- 12) **Environment Clearance**

The SEIAA, Assam vide its letter File No. SEIAA 1173/2020 dated 29.07.2022 granted environment clearance of this proposed area for extraction stone of 2,50,000 cu m stone within 5 years i.e. 50,000 cu m approx. of stone per year.

- 13) **Mining Plan:**

The proposed area is part of the mining zone area of 56.72 ha.

The Mining plan has been approved by Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam on 10.08.2018 which is valid upto 09.09.2024.

As per the submitted mining plan, the quantity recommended for extraction from 5.38 Ha area is 2,50,000 Cu m for a contract period of 5 years i.e. 50,000 cu m per year approximately.

The safety zone area of 1.38 ha not specifically mentioned in Mining Plan.

- 14) **Recommendation of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Govt.**

The proposal has been recommended at all levels by the Govt of Assam.

- 15) **Recommendation of DDGF(C), Regional Office, Shillong along with detailed reasons.**

The proposed stone mahal is to meet up local demand of stones for stone crusher units as well as to supply to various government, semi government and private agencies for civil construction purposes including and to meet demand for road metals, stone chips of different sizes.

The proposal is recommended with all usual condition of mining proposal. The proposal is recommended with all usual condition of mining proposal along with the following:

(i) State Govt shall submit the detail list and status of forest clearance and reclamation status of approved/ expired mined/ earlier broken area within the proposed area or adjacent to the proposed area and action taken report against responsible officials/ user agency for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, if any, along with the information sought vide Sub Office, Guwahati Regional Office, Shillong letter dated 23.07.2024.

(ii) The proposed area is 83 m (approx.) aerial distance from adjacent proposed mining area i.e. **Gopeswar East Stone Quarry No.1. (5.47 ha)** and other mined out area has been observed adjacent to the proposed area, hence attracts the cluster mining norms. The comprehensive Environment Impact assessment or Environment Management Plan of the cluster mine shall be prepared taking into consideration of the safety zone area of 1.38 ha and revised extraction quantity from the proposed quarry area i.e. 4.00 ha. Accordingly, Environment clearance shall be obtained reflecting the cluster norms, transportation and related issues, replenishment and recharge issues, geo hydrological study etc.

16) DDGF(C), Regional Office, Shillong shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives examined for locating the proposal in non-forest land.

The proposed area is site specific quality stone which will be used for construction and other various infrastructure project.

17) Utility of the proposal.

This proposed diversion project is for opening of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone Area which will be used for construction and other developmental infrastructure project.

18) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value.

Not involved.

19) Whether any scared grove or very old growth trees/forests exists in the area proposed for diversion.

Not involved.

20) Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area

The proposed area does not fall under any Eco-Sensitive zone/protected area nor under any elephant corridor and no records of Human Elephant conflict has been reported by the State Govt.

21) Whether the land under diversion forms part of unique eco-system.

The proposed diversion area is not part of any unique eco-system.

22) Any other information relating to the proposal.

The topography of the proposed area is undulating and altitude ranges from 46M at the bottom of the hill to 118 m at the hill top. The general slope of the area is towards north as the area itself rises from southern side. The proposed area is a degraded forest land and predominantly covered with grasses and shrubs with scattered few tree species viz. *Boswellia Serrata*, etc and exposed rock.

The proposed site is earlier mined out area and the same also reflected from the examination of the time series data from the DSS section. The proposed site does not fall within any protected area nor under archaeological, religious, cultural heritage or Defence establishments. The proposed mining area does not fall in No Development Zone (NDZ).

The quantity recommended for extraction is 2,50,000 Cu m for a contract period of 5 years i.e. 50,000 cu m per year which includes the safety zone areas of 1.38 ha.

The proposed area is a part of the Mining Zone area i.e. Gopeswar Mining area (56.72 ha) in Gopeswar Reserve Forest. The cumulative impact study of flora and fauna due to mining of stone from 5.38 ha Gopeswar Stone Query and mining zone under Kamrup district, Assam submitted by the State Govt.

Another proposal for diversion of 5.47 ha of forest land for Gopeswar East Stone Quarry No.1 by Bhartia Infra Projects Limited has been submitted seeking forest clearance under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 & Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, guideline & clarification which is located at a distance of 83 m (approx.) from this instant proposed area. The location google map of these proposals are as under:-

Gopeswar Stone
Query and mining
zone (5.40 ha) →



→ Gopeswar East
Stone Quarry
No.1(5.47 ha)

The State Govt shall carried out comprehensive environment management plan for sustainable mining within the mining zone area i.e. 56.72 ha in Gopeswar Reserve Forest.

The proposed mining area is a broken area as also can be seen from the time series data analysis of google earth imagery 2014 & 2024 as under:-



Figure 6.2 – GE imagery 08th March 2024

The broken area of 4.9 ha (approx.) out of the proposed mining area i.e. 5.38 ha (4 ha mine area & 1.38 ha Safety zone) has been observed in the time series analysis of 2014 Google earth imagery.

The submitted approved mining plan does not mentioned about the safety zone. The State Govt submitted that Rs 22,24,865/- has been estimated for plantation for creating of safety zone along mining boundary of Gopeswar stone quarry. However in the submitted environment clearance letter dated 29.07.2022, the following points were observed:-

- (i) No stone extraction shall be carried out in safety zone of any bridge and /or embarkment.
- (ii) Green Belt development shall be carried out 20% of the total extraction area either along road side considering CPCB guidelines with native trees species in the mining area.

The proposal is recommended with all usual condition of mining proposal along with the following conditions:

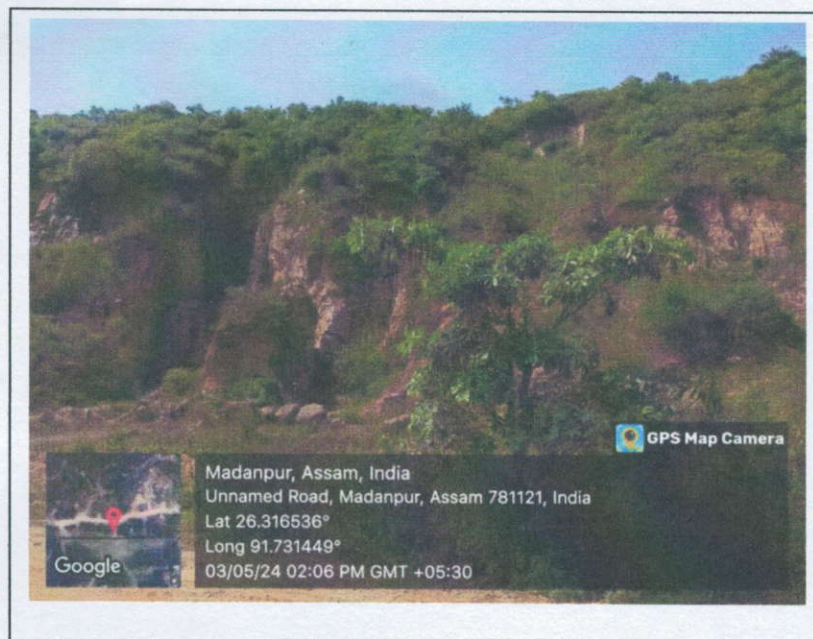
- (i) The details list of the approved & expired stone quarry/ mining proposal in the proposed area as the proposed area was broken earlier.
- (ii) The compliance of the earlier granted proposals near to the proposed area i.e.
 - (a) Proposal for diversion of 1 ha forest land for Gopeswar Stone Quarry No. 1 under North Kamrup Division, Rangia (Final Approval letter 3-AS B 045/2007-SHI/1816-18 dated 14.08.2008)
 - (b) Proposal for diversion of 1 ha forest land for Gopeswar Stone Quarry No. 3 under North Kamrup Division, Rangia (Final; Approval letter 3-AS B 047/2007-SHI/2435-36 dated 18.11.2008).
- (iii) The comprehensive Environment Impact assessment or Environment Management Plan of the cluster mine shall be prepared and revised

Environment clearance shall be resubmitted reflecting the cluster, transportation and related issues, replenishment and recharge issues, geo hydrological study of the cluster area as it form the cluster mined and the proposed mining area is 83 m (approx.) from adjacent proposed mining area i.e. Gopeswar East Stone Quarry No.1. (5.47 ha).

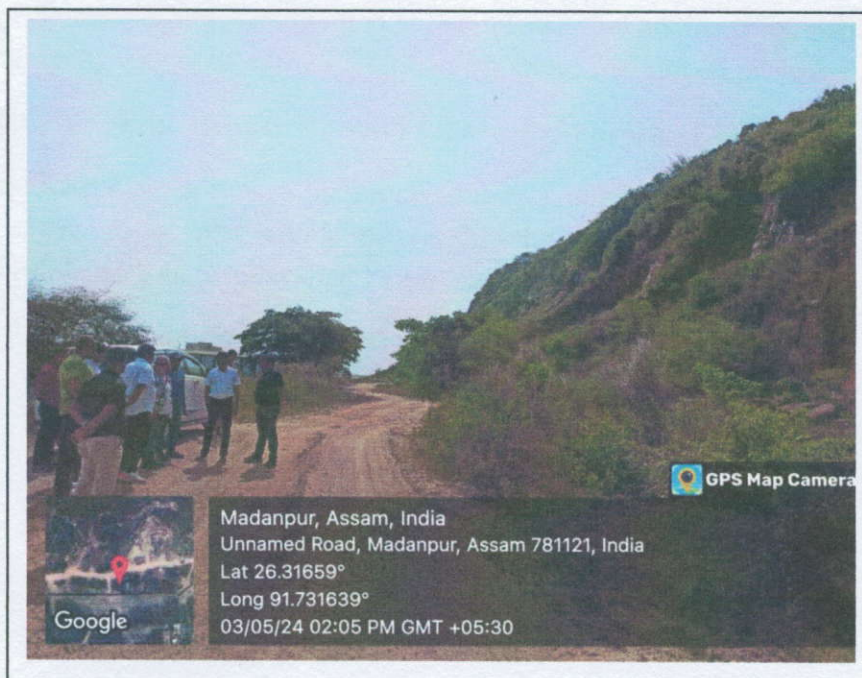
- (iv) The revised mining plan is to be submitted mentioning specifically mentioning safety zone (1.38 ha) to avoid confusion.
- (v) The State Govt shall carried out comprehensive environment management plan for sustainable mining within the mining zone area i.e. 56.72 ha in Gopeswar Reserve Forest.
- (vi) The boundary of the CA land, if not demarcated on ground, should be demarcated immediately to avoid confusion and possible encroachment.
- (vii) Out of total identified non forest land of 5.40 ha CA sit, about 0.32 ha is mined area and back filling of this area is suggested for better plantation approach.
- (viii) The State Govt has to ensure that the Safety zone is demarcated, afforested and kept intact throughout the operation of the mine.
- (ix) Regular monitoring of the project by DFO, CCF/CF to ensure strict adherence to conditions and reclamation regime.


Deputy Director General of Forests(C)

Photographs of the proposed site for operation of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone Area(5.40 ha) under North Kamrup Division



Proposed site of Gopeswar Stone Quarry & Mining Zone area under North Kamrup Division



The existing katcha road where the proposed approach road (0.02 ha) is connected to the mining site.

F. No. 8-6/2017-RoHQ
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(RoHQ Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
 Jorbagh Raod, Aliganj
 New Delhi – 110003
 Dated: 15th March, 2019

To

The Addl. PCCF (Central),
 Regional Office (NEZ),
 Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change,
 Law –U- Sib, Lumbatngen, Near M.T.C. Workshop,
 Shillong – 793 021

Sub: Proposals received from the Regional Office, Shillong for quarrying of minor minerals located in various districts in the State of Assam – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject wherein the Regional Office has submitted 8 proposals seeking approval of the competent authority of the Ministry for diversion of forest land for quarrying of minor minerals in various districts in the State of Assam and to say that examination of said proposals in the ministry revealed following:

- (i) Diversion of forest land has been sought for a period of 20 years while the Mining Plan has been prepared for a period of five years. Therefore, the validity of the proposed lease vis-à-vis forest clearance and Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2013 and needs to be reconfirmed by the State Government.
- (ii) As per the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee, the approach road for the proposed quarry should be included in the diversion proposal. However, the same has not been included in the proposal. A justification for not including the approach road into the diversion proposal needs to be obtained from the State Government/Regional Office.
- (iii) Almost all proposals 13 old and 7 new have been proposed at isolated locations which will results in sporadic openings in the forest area and may also pose difficulties in their monitoring and impact assessments. The reasons/justification for proposed sporadic opening in the forest area instead of restricting the same to a specific zone or localized area after identification of such local potential areas, needs to be obtained from the State Government.

P.T.O.