To,
The Principal 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 1.95 ha of forest land in Sy No 01/P (Compt No 558) of Elutla RF, Puttur Mandal, Ananthapuram District for mining lease for extraction of Barytes in favour of Smt. J.C.Vijaya, R/o Tadipatri-reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government’s letter No. 2265/Section-II/2018 dated 28.05.2018 seeking prior approval of the Government of India for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section’2’ of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the in principle approval (Stage-I) of the Government of India under Section ‘2’ of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 1.95 ha of forest land in Sy No 01/P (Compt No 558) of Elutla RF, Puttur Mandal, Ananthapuram District for mining lease for extraction of Barytes in favour of Smt. J.C.Vijaya, R/o Tadipatri, subject to the following conditions:-

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

2. The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of user agency. The user agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the boundary within the mining lease area);

3. Compensatory afforestation over identified non-forest land over an extent of 2.04 ha of non-forest land in Sy No 207 of Anumpalli (Village) of Puttur (M) of Gooty Range of Ananthapur Division, shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department from the funds to be provided by the user agency;
4. Entire non-forest land identified over an extent of 2.04 ha in Sy No 207 of Anumpalli (Village) of Puttur (M) of Gooty Range of Ananthapur Division for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage-II clearance. The approved Compensatory Afforestation scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;

5. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring 1.95 ha from the user agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard;

6. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the user agency. The user agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;

7. The funds received from the User Agency towards Compensatory Afforestation and Net Present Value under this project shall be deposited in the respective Corporation bank account of the Andhra Pradesh State CAMPA. The User Agency shall compulsorily deposit the NPV and other levies, only by generating challan through the Ministry's website;

8. In case the mining leases is adjoining habitation, the stretch of the boundary of the safety zone of the lease adjacent to the habitation/roads should be properly fenced by the user agency at the project cost to protect the vegetation/regeneration activities in the safety zone;

9. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt and to ensure dense canopy cover in the area, regeneration activity shall be taken up by the user agency at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;

10. The State Forest Department shall carry out afforestation and its maintenance on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere measuring one and half times the area of forest land under safety zone at the project cost. The DGPS co-ordinates of the area shall be submitted along with compliance report;

11. The user agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.4), if any,
located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease and shall carry out the works as proposed in the mitigative measures plan for protection of forest area located adjacent to the proposed mining lease area;

12. The user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner and concurrent reclamation as per the approved mining plan, and submit an annual compliance report to the Regional Office, Chennai. If it is found that the activities indicated in the reclamation plan are not being executed by the user agency, the State Government or the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;

13. The user agency shall ensure stabilization of the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°;

14. Diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminous with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under;

15. User agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986;

16. The consent of State Pollution Control Board shall be obtained under the Air and Water Act before commencement of mining operations and it shall be renewed annually;

17. No labour camps shall be established on the forest land. The user agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;

18. Only temporary storage sheds shall be set up in the area and no permanent structure shall be constructed in the forest area;

19. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
20. The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to all the Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to such project;

21. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 1.95 ha (including safety zone area). The user agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;

22. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency or Department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

23. The PCCF and the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State of Andhra Pradesh shall instruct all the field level officers to implement the CA scheme in its entirety as per the proposal and no CA amount shall be left unspent;

24. Any other condition that the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area shall be complied by the user agency;

25. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as decided by the Additional PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Chennai;

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. Transfer of forest land to user agency shall not be effected prior to the issue of final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,

(D.Sathiyana)
Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-
1. The Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh
Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004.

3. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004.

4. The Director, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

5. Smt JC Vijaya Ellutla, #15/311, Sanjeevanagar, Tadipatri, Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh.


(D.Sathiyayan)
Conservator of Forests (Central)