F. No. 5-2/2017-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated: July, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State/UT Governments

Sub: Clarification regarding Linear Infrastructure (Conveyor belt) linked to mining projects– reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Karnataka's letter no. A5(1).MNG.CR-41/2016-17 dated 19th June, 2019 on the above subject seeking clarification regarding construction and use of conveyor belts linked to the mining projects and to inform that proposal of the State Government was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27th June, 2009. Minutes of the meeting may kindly be seen at the website of the Ministry at www.parivesh.nic.in .

The FAC, after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that transportation of minerals by conveyer belt is an eco friendly option compare to roads therefore they should be preferred over transportation through road. This will lower the dust, air and noise pollution and moreover this can operate round the clock for quick evacuation of the minerals. The relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry in respect of linear projects has special provision to allow the state government for tree cutting and commencement of work involved in linear projects after payment of compensatory levies. Conveyer belts and roads in mining lease area and connecting lease area with the loading or dumping sites are part of mining projects and shall invariably be included as land use in comprehensive proposal. After detailed deliberations and discussions, the FAC recommended the following:

(a) The special provision granted by Government of India under the concerned guidelines under FCA, 1980, to allow the state government for tree cutting and commencement of work involved in linear projects after payment of compensatory levies, can be extended for a further period of one more year if state government is satisfied that user agency had made serious efforts to comply with the stipulations in Stage-I approval.

(b) The proposal for laying of conveyor belt for an already working/existing mines, including the loading point/ unloading point, may be considered as a linear project and dealt in the same office in which original proposal of corresponding mining proposal was considered, for the purpose of diversion under FC Act, 1980.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

5.08.2019

(Sandeep Sharma)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State/UT Governments
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UIT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File

5.08.2019

(Sandeep Sharma)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests