

of the project site and based on the inspection, SEAC will decide further course of action.

Agenda No.130-06:  
(File No. 6732/2019)

Existing Veerachipalayam Limestone Mine - GO-7947 with an extent of 7.92 Ha, production capacity of 0.31 Lakh TPA by M/s. The India Cements Limited at S.F. No. 2/2, 2/3, 3/2A, 4/1, 4/2A, 14/1A, 15(part) in Veerachipalayam Village & 235/6B in Alathur Village, Sankari Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu – Terms of Reference (ToR) to be issued under violation notification dated: 14.03.2017 & 14.03.2018 of MoEF & CC.

(SIA/TN/MIN/27441/2018 dated: 02.06.2018)

M/s. The India Cements Limited (ICL) is having 2 mining leases namely G.O.No.7947 with an extent of 7.92Ha and G.O.878 with an extent of 75.705 Ha, collectively called Veerachipalayam limestone mines of the India Cements Limited. The entire mined out limestone from these mines are captively used in Sankari cement plant.

The lease area falls between latitude 11°28'24.35"N to 11°28'14.9"N and longitude 77°47'19.6" E to 77°47'23.6" E which lies in Survey of India Topo sheet No. 58E/14 & 58E/15. The survey numbers of the lease are 2/2, 2/3, 3/2A, 4/1, 4/2A, 14/1A, 15(part) in Veerachipalayam Village & 235/6B in Alathur Village, Sankari Taluk, Salem District. The project site is well connected to NH47 which is located 1.8 km south and to the cement plant located at Sankari which is located 7km in the South East through dedicated road owned by ICL.

Originally the lease was granted on 27.05.1991 and was valid up to 24.7.1999. First renewal was issued on 25-07-1999 and was valid up to 24-07-2019. As per MMDR Amended Act 2015, the lease was extended up to 01.12.2041.

The mining operation in lease area granted in G.O.7949 was carried out from 1991. The production from this lease area is stopped from June 2016. Since this was a worked mine, presuming Environment Clearance (EC) is to be obtained at the stage of lease renewal only, EC was not obtained so far. Hence this is a violation project. Since this project falls under violation category, Form 1,

Feasibility report was uploaded under violation on 04.07.17 to MoEF&CC. File was transferred to SEIAA-Tamil Nadu subsequently.

Scheme of mining was prepared for the period 2014-2019 and approved by IBM vide letter No – TN/SLM/LST/MS-1064.MDS dated. 24.06.2014. Subsequently Review of Mining plan was approved on 22.11.2018 for the period 2019-24.

Total lease area 7.92 Ha is a non-forest land, patta land. The entire land is in ICL's possession. The lease area does not include any forest land. No ecologically sensitive features like national parks, biospheres, sanctuaries, elephant corridors, Tiger reserves, flight paths of migrating fauna, etc occur in core & buffer areas of the project. The area does not come under CRZ category.

There are no streams or water bodies within the lease area. In the 10km of buffer zone major water bodies are Sarabhanga river in North West at 7.35km from the lease area and Mettur East bank canal in south west direction at 7.8km from the lease area. Suriyamalai Reserve Forest lies 2.94kmNE of the lease area.

The proposed peak limestone production from this lease would be 0.31 Lakh Tonnes of limestone. The mineable reserve is 0.41 Million Tonnes as per UNFC norms. This lease worked as an opencast fully mechanised mine. The bench height is 10m, and the bench slope is 50° - 60°. The expected life of the mine is 16 years. The groundwater table lies more than 100m below ground level. Hence, no groundwater intersection is envisaged.

About 0.66 million tonnes of waste comprising 0.27 million tonnes of interstitial waste and 0.39 million tonnes of developmental waste is to be dumped in the dump No.1 located at the eastern part of the lease. It is also proposed to stabilize the waste dump by providing garland around the dump. Drains are made around the dump to collect the water in the pit. This water is used for dust suppression and cultivation purpose till the end of the life of the mine. As the rejected stones are hard stones, no sliding is possible in the dump yard.

In the post mining stage, the entire mined out area will be left as water body which will recharge the ground water, greenbelt development will be carried out over 2.28Ha of area.

The mine provides direct employment to about 56 persons (including contractual) and indirectly more than 50 people benefit through allied services like trading, logistics, casual lab or needs, etc.



The peak water requirements Veerachipalaiyam limestone mine leases will be about 30 KLD, comprising 2 KLD for domestic purpose, 28 KLD for water sprinkling/ dust suppression and plantation. Total water required for the mine and will be met from Rain water collected in the nearby pit. Infrastructure facilities in the form of time office, store room, first aid room, drinking water tank etc as per statutory requirement are already available in the mine.

The total cost of the project is Rs. 261 Lakhs.

1. The Proponent, M/s. The India Cements Limited has applied for Terms of Reference in MoEF&CC on 04.07.17 under violation Notification issued by MoEF & CC, Gol dated 14.03.2017 for the existing Veerachipalayam Limestone Mine - GO-7947 with an extent of 7.92 Ha, production capacity of 0.31 Lakh TPA by M/s. The India Cements Limited at S.F. No. 2/2, 2/3, 3/2A, 4/1, 4/2A, 14/1A, 15(part) in Veerachipalayam Village & 235/6B in Alathur Village, Sankari Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The application was transferred from MoEF & CC to SEIAA on 02.06.2018.
3. The project/activity is covered under Category "B1" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Mineral Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

Based on the presentation made by the proponent and the documents furnished, the committee decided to recommend for the grant of Standard ToR for mining projects as specified by MoEF & CC subject to the normal Terns of Reference in addition to TOR specified (Annexure-I) with Public Hearing as per the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in its order dated 13.10.2017 in W.P.No.11189 of 2017 by the SEAC to deal with the violation aspects of the mining projects.

In addition to the above, the proponent shall submit the following details:

1. Since Suriya malai Reserve Forest is located at a distance of 2.94km NE of the lease area the possible Impact of noise on the wild life and habitat surrounding the project, needs to be analysed and necessary mitigation measures to be proposed for reducing the same.
2. Points raised in the public hearing shall be covered in the EIA report and possible reply.
3. The report for green belt developed with necessary photographs.

4. The proponent shall furnish the photographs for fencing around the project site.
5. The proponent shall furnish the proposal for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER).
6. A detailed mine closure plan shall be prepared and the same shall be got approved by the Geology of mining, Department and the same shall be submitted along with EIA report.
7. Contour map for 1 km radius surrounding the site, village map, FMB & A Register may be furnished.
8. The details of annual rate of replenishment and timeframe for replenishment after mining closure in the area shall be furnished.
9. Comprehensive study shall be carried out to evaluate the impact of mining operations on the environment through experts in the field of hydrogeology, ecology, mining and environment.
10. Hydro geological studies on removal of ground water shall be carried out to evaluate the impact of mining activities on the surrounding agricultural farms and habitations. It is seen that on the North west direction Sarabhangha River flows within 10 km from the project site. Suriya malai Reserve Forest is located at 2.94 km from the project site . It is also learnt that agricultural activities are being carried out at present. There are habitations surrounding the mining area. The EIA study should completely investigate the possible adverse impact on agriculture, vegetation, suriya malai and economics of the people living nearby.
11. The proponent shall furnish an undertaking in an affidavit that the proponent won't repeat any such violation in future as per MoEF & CC, Office Memorandum No. F.No.3-50/2017-IA.III(Pt.) dated:30.05.2018 given below.

"I/We, the applicant / the Project Proponent, commit to comply with all the statutory requirements and judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.114 of 2014 in the matter of the common cause versus Union of India and Ors. Before grant of ToR/ EC and I am also to commit, not to repeat any such violation in future. In case



of any violation of the above the ToR/Environmental Clearances shall be liable to be terminated forthwith”

Agenda No.130-07:

(File No. 6734/2019)

Existing Karumapurathanur Limestone Mine - GO-101 with an extent of 38.73 Ha, production capacity of 1.70 Lakh MTPA by M/s. The India Cements Limited at S.F. No. 112/2A(P), 138(P), 205(P), 208/2, 209/1, 209/2, 210/2, 210/3, 210/4, 211/1, 211/2, 211/3, 211/4, 213/1, 213/2, 213/3, 214/1, 214/2, 214/3, 225/2, 227/2, 234(P), 236, 241/1, 241/2, 241/3 & 242/3 in Chinnagoundanur Village, Sankari Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu – Terms of Reference (ToR) to be issued under violation notification dated: 14.03.2017 & 14.03.2018 of MoEF & CC.

(SIA/TN/MIN/27501/2018 dated: 02.06.2018)

The proposal was placed in the 130<sup>th</sup> SEAC Meeting held on 10.06.2019. The project proponent gave detailed presentation. The salient features of the project and the environmental impact assessment as presented by the proponent are as follows:

1. M/s. The India Cements Limited (ICL) is having 2 mining leases namely G.O.No.101 with an extent of 38.73Ha and G.O.77 with an extent of 54.18Ha, collectively called Karumapurathanur limestone mines of India Cements Limited. The entire mined out limestone from these mines are costively used in Sankari cement plant.
2. The lease area of GO 101 falls between latitude 11°29'16.4"N to 11°28'22.58"N and longitude 77°48'27.5" E to 77°49'5.52" E and falls in Survey of India Toposheet No. 58E/15. The lease is well connected to NH47 located 3km south and to the cement plant located at Sankari which is located 5 km (by road) in the SE.
3. The mining operation in GO 101 lease area is carried out from 1968. Originally the lease was granted on 10.05.1976 with validity up to 5.12.1996. First renewal was issued on 06.12.1996 with validity up to